EUROVISION SONG CONTEST ROTTERDAM 2020

openup

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INTRODUCTION

Uninterrupted since 1956, the European Broadcasting Union will organize together with Dutch Public Broadcaster AVROTROS the 65th edition of the Eurovision Song Contest. Lugano and its Kursaal theatre witnessed the first edition of the contest back in the 50s, which lead to the creation of this masses event it is today. The 2020 edition of the contest will be held in Rotterdam, The Netherlands after the victory of the country last year in Tel Aviv, Israel. The Netherlands won thanks to "Arcade", a song performed by the singer and songwriter Duncan Lawrence.

AVROTROS, refounded in 2014, is a Dutch public radio and television organization part of the Dutch public broadcaster called Nederlandse Publieke Omroep, better known internationally as NPO. They will be the ones in charge of hosting the contest this year. This broadcaster considered various options as the contest venue, among which were Arnhem, Bolduque, Maastricht, Rotterdam and Utrecht. Finally, on August 30, 2019, the host network and the European Broadcasting Union (EBU) announced that the European music competition would be held in the Rotterdam Ahoy complex on May 12, 14 and 16, 2020.

This event will be an impressive experience in terms of the celebration of relevant audiovisual events for the country and the city of Rotterdam. The stadium located in the south of the city, and sponsored not only by it, but also by the cities of Dordrecht and The Hague, has served as the venue for the Junior Eurovision Song Contest in 2007, the Nationaal Songfestival in 2000, 2001 and 2003, and the MTV Europe Music Awards in 1997 and 2016.

Regarding the Countries taking part in the current edition of the contest, two withdrawals have taken place compared to the 2019 edition and two countries have made a comeback. As a result, the LXV Eurovision Song Contest will have 41 participating countries, which we see reflected in the following list:

- Albania ***#ALB***
- Armenia ***#ARM***
- Australia ***#AUS***
- Austria ***#AUT***
- Azerbaijan ***#AZE***
- Belarus ***#BLR***
- Belgium ***#BEL***
- Bulgaria ***#BUL***
- Croatia ***#CRO***
- Cyprus ***#CYP***
- Czech Republic ***#CZE***
- Denmark ***#DEN***
- Estonia ***#EST***
- Finland ***#FIN***
- France ***#FRA***
- Georgia ***#GEO***
- Germany ***#GER***
- Greece ***#GRE***
- Iceland ***#ISL***
- Ireland ***#IRL***
- Israel ***#ISR***
- Italy ***#ITA***
- Latvia ***#LAT***
- Lithuania ***#LTU***
- Malta ***#MLT***
- Moldova ***#MDA***
- North Macedonia ***#MKD***
- Norway ***#NOR***
- Poland ***#POL***
- Portugal ***#POR***
- Rumanía ***#ROU***
- Russia ***#RUS***
- San Marino ***#SMR***
- Serbia ***#SRB***
- Slovenia ***#SLO***
- Spain ***#ESP***
- Sweden ***#SWE***
- Switzerland ***#SUI***
- The Netherlands ***#NED***
- Ukraine ***#UKR***
- United Kingdom ***#GBR***

VENUE
ROTTERDAM AHOY

PHOTO: Rotterdam Ahoy

SLOGAN & LOGO

The Eurovision Song Contest was established a decade after the Second World War with the aim to bring Europe closer together through music. Over the last decades, the competition has opened itself up to new countries, new talent and new technology. To reinforce that message, a data-driven vignette has been developed that celebrates the story of the Eurovision Song Contest in a contemporary way.

The logo is an abstract representation of the flag colours of the 41 countries participating in 2020 in order of their first participation. The logo builds on the design of previous editions of the Eurovision Song Contest that were held in the Netherlands.

The slogan 'Open Up' is intentionally incomplete: Open up to each other. Open up to music. Open up to Rotterdam. Open up to... whatever you choose! Feel the freedom to complete the slogan in your own way. That way we get to know each other better.

STAGE

The stage to be built in the Rotterdam Ahoy is the work of the German set designer Florian Wieder, creator of the company Wieder Design, born in 1995. This company was already involved in the design of six stages of the Eurovision Song Contest, specifically in those of the 2011 editions, held in Düsseldorf, 2012, held in Baku, 2015, held in Vienna, 2017, held in Kyiv, 2018, held in Lisbon, and 2019, held in Tel Aviv. The mentioned stage design, according to its creator, will be inspired by the slogan of this edition and by the typical Dutch landscape characterized by its flat and open horizon. To carry out this purpose, the stage floor will combine several walkways and platforms that will be inspired by the canals and bridges that both represent the image of the most famous towns in The Netherlands. The Green Room, space in which the representatives wait for the results of the voting after their performance, will be located in the same venue as the stage itself and among the audience.

Brief introductory videos known as postcards will be shown before each performance. The participating artists will be seen performing an activity, traditions or hobbies that are typically carried out by their inhabitants in the daily life of the host country.

STAGE

DESING: FLORIAN WIEDER

PHOTO: NPO/AVROTROS/NOS

HOSTS

The Eurovision Song Contest 2020 in Rotterdam, the Netherlands will be hosted by Chantal Janzen, Edsilia Rombley and Jan Smit. Chantal Janzen is a famous actress and presenter, Edsilia Rombley a presenter, singer and two-time Eurovision participant, and Jan Smit is a successful singer, presenter and Eurovision commentator for the Netherlands.

The presenters will open the 3 live shows, talk to the contestants in the Green Room and guide the voting for an audience of some 180 million viewers from Europe and around the world. "When deciding on hosts, we first and foremost chose 3 people with a great deal of stage experience. They also happen to have started their career as singers," says Sietse Bakker, Executive Producer Event of the Eurovision Song Contest 2020.

Chantal Janzen

Chantal (Instagram) was born in 1979 in Tegelen and studied at the Amsterdam University of the Arts. She rose to fame as a musical actress, performing in Tarzan, Petticoat and Hij gelooft in mij. She also acted in several well-known Dutch movies. Chantal started her TV career at public broadcaster AVRO, where she hosted the award show Gouden Televizier-Ring Gala from 2008 to 2010. In 2011, she made the transfer to commercial broadcaster RTL where she hosted shows like Holland's Got Talent and The Voice of Holland. Chantal Janzen won the Televizier-Ster award for best TV presenter an impressive 5 times.

Edsilia Rombley

Born in Amsterdam in 1978, Edsilia (Instagram) was introduced to the general public when she won the Dutch talent programme Soundmixshow in 1996. A year later she also won the European Soundmixshow and, in 1998, she represented the Netherlands at the Eurovision Song Contest with Hemel & Aarde, finishing 4th.

In 2007, she took part for the second time with On Top of the World. Edsilia also presented the Dutch voting and jury results twice. She hosted the first season of the successful AVROTROS programme Beste Zangers. Since 2005 the popular singer completed 7 theatre tours and since 2014 she has been performing as part of the formation Ladies of Soul annually. In 2019 she hosted Eurovision in Concert, which she will also do in 2020.

Jan Smit

Jan Smit (Instagram) was born in 1985 and grew up in Volendam and scored his first hit at the age of 10. In 2005, his reality show Gewoon Jan Smit won the Televizier-Ring award. Jan is also a member of De Toppers and the German formation KLUBBB3. Since 2012, he has been hosting the AVROTROS show Beste Zangers, which got nominated for a Televizier-Ring in 2017 and 2019. As a singer, Jan is not only well known in the Netherlands, but also in Belgium, Germany, Austria and Switzerland. He is the most successful Dutch artist in Germany, reaching up to 12 million viewers with Schlagerchampions, Die Hüttenparty and Schlagerboom.

HOSTS

EDSILIA ROMBLEY
CHANTAL JANZEN
JAN SMIT

PHOTO: NPO/AVROTROS/NOS

ALBANIA

ARILENA ARA

FALL FROM THE SKY

LYRICS: Michael Blue, Robert Stevenson, Sam Schummer
MUSIC: Darko Dimitrov, Lazar Cvetkoski

PHOTO: Ergys Zhabjaku

BIOGRAPHY:

Born in Shköder, Arilena Ara (21) has been singing since the age of 5 and, as a kid, participated in many festivals and song competitions, eventually winning X Factor Albania at the age of 14.

In 2014, Arilena released her first successful single Aeroplan, and 2 years later, she participated at the Kenga Magjike festival with the song Nentori where she won the Best Ballad Award. The song went on to become a hit, even beyond Albania, accumulating well more than 100 million streams online.

Arilena is the winner of several international awards and has performed hundreds of live shows in the last few years. Most recently, Arilena was one of the coaches in The Voice Of Albania.

LYRICS:

Words have cut me to the bone
And my heart is sinking like a stone
But I don't let it show
Barely take another breath
Though I'm suffocating here alone
I'll never let you know

Fall from the sky
Always making me hold back my wings
When I'm destined to fly
I'm screaming inside
You can crush and break down my walls
But my heart will survive

You have made me doubt my faith
Hide the truth behind another lie
But you won't see me cry
I pray for you for all you've done
All the hurt that you leave in your wake It's so
hard not to break

You think I'm better without
A way to speak my mind
You think I don't wanna shout
And that I'm terrified
Screaming inside
With nowhere to hide
You won't let me flyyyyyyy..

Fall from the sky
As you hold back my wings
When I'm destined to fly

I'm screaming inside
Fall...
Fall from the sky
Break down my walls
But I'm destined to fly

ARMENIA

ATHENA MANOUKIAN

CHAINS ON YOU

LYRICS: Athena Manoukian
MUSIC: Athena Manoukian, DJ Paco

PHOTO: AMPTV

BIOGRAPHY:

Athena Manoukian is a 25-year-old Armenian-Greek singer. Her first experience in the music industry was in 2007 when she won first prize at an international talent contest. A year later, she participated in the Greek national selection for the Junior Eurovision Song Contest 2008.

In 2011, Athena, alongside DJ Kas, released her first single Party Like A Freak, which garnered over 1 million views on YouTube. Following its success, she was nominated twice at the Greek Video Music Awards. Other hits followed, like I Surrender, Na Les Pos M'agapas, and especially XO, which was a hit in both Greece and Armenia.

Later she took a shot at The X Factor UK and, as a songwriter, collaborated on the song Palia Mou Agapi, performed by Eurovision winner Helena Paparizou. In February 2020, Athena won Depi Evratesil, Armenia's national selection for the Eurovision Song Contest 2020, with her song Chains On You.

LYRICS:

I got it, you wanna take me to the party,
Cause you're naughty,
Well, let me tell you one kind of story.

Yeah I start it, I make it, I ride it, I work it
Don't like it, I'm gonna say no.
I ain't no lying, I'm trying, I'm flying, no buying
And I know I'm gonna make it to the top.

Keeping my diamonds on you,
I'm keeping my diamonds on you,
Keeping my diamonds on you,
I got angels by my side
And this is what I say to you.

Diamonds shinin' on me,
My diamonds shinin' on me,
Diamonds shinin' on me,
You said I don't really care
Can't you see I'm right here.

Boy, don't deny my lips on fire,
They're screaming boy,
Let me breathe, you're all I need,
And I say boy
Call my name, we're burning flame I want you boy
I am yours, only yours and of course
Hurt me.

Chains on chains on you,
Imma put them boy
Chains on chains on you.
Chains on chains on you,
Imma put them boy
Chains on chains on you,

I was staring at you while sitting next to you, I think I got a juice, I started thinking how my name would sound to you. So you were walking towards me and I knew I should believe, I would be the one that'll really make you feel like a boss.

I start it, I make it, I ride it, I work it,
Don't like it, I'm gonna say no.
I ain't no lying, I'm trying, I'm flying, no buying
And I know I'm gonna make it to the top.

Keeping my diamonds on you,
I'm keeping my diamonds on you,
Keeping my diamonds on you,
I got angels by my side
This is what I say to you.

Diamonds shinin' on me,
My diamonds shinin' on me.
Diamonds shinin' on me
You said I don't really care
Can't you see I'm right here.

Boy, don't deny my lips on fire
They're screaming boy,
Let me breathe, you're all I need,
And I say boy,
Call my name, we're burning flame I want you boy,
I'm yours, only yours and of course,
Hurt me.

Hurt me.

I am yours, only yours and of course,
Hurt me.

Chains on chains on you
Imma put them boy
Chains on chains on you.
Chains on chains on you
Imma put them boy
Chains on chains on you.

Diamonds shinin' on me,
My diamonds shinin' on me.
Diamonds shinin' on me,
You said I don't really care
Can't you see I'm right here.

AUSTRALIA

MONTAIGNE

DON'T BREAK ME

LYRICS: Montaigne, Anthony Egizii, David Musumeci
MUSIC: Montaigne, Anthony Egizii, David Musumeci

PHOTO: Johnny Nicolaidis

BIOGRAPHY:

At only 24, Sydney-based artist Montaigne has become a major name in Aussie indie music. In the past few years, she was recognized for her work with multiple spots on the Triple J's Hottest 100, an ARIA award for Best Breakthrough Artist and a nomination for Best Female Artist on her debut album Glorious Heights. Her second album 'COMPLEX' was released in August to critical acclaim.

After winning over the Australian public with 54 points and a jury of industry experts with 53 points, an impressive 107 points overall, Montaigne was crowned the winner of the second Eurovision - Australia Decides. She will perform Don't Break Me in the first half of the first Semi-Final on 12 May.

"Don't Break Me is a depiction of the enough is enough phase of a relationship breakdown, where one person feels like they are putting much more time, energy and resources into the relationship than the other person and becomes frustrated and resentful. I wrote it while reading Codependent No More by Melody Beattie, which really informed the qualities of the character and the relationship dynamic."

LYRICS:

I don't feel the same buzz
When your name comes up on my phone
Anymore
Feels like I don't feel you
I fear you
And it makes me cry on my floor

It feels like you're taking me for granted
I've given you everything I have, yeah
And I can barely bring to mind
The reason why I've stretched myself so far for You

But oh ho ho, I can't take it anymore

Don't break me
Don't break me down, down, down, down
Don't break me
Are you hearing me now, now, now, now?
You thought I was elastic
But maybe I'm just made of glass
Don't break me
Don't break me down

Isn't love a compromise
Two people trying to keep the fire burning?
You've been busy playing round and starting fights
While I've been busy earning
Every time that I try to explain it
You think that your pain is more important
And the hardest thing is that I don't wanna give you up
I love you, I love you, I love you

But oh, ho, ho, I can't take it anymore

Don't break me
Don't break me down, down, down, down
Don't break me
Are you hearing me now, now, now, now?
You thought I was elastic
But maybe I'm just made of glass
Don't break me
Don't break me down

I lie awake while you're asleep
I listen to the sound
Of all the words I couldn't say 'til now

Don't break me
Don't break me down, down, down, down
Don't break me
Are you hearing me now, now, now?

You thought I was elastic
But maybe I'm just made of glass
Don't break me
Don't break me down
Don't break me

AUSTRIA

VINCENT BUENO

ALIVE

WRITTEN BY: Vincent Bueno
COMPOSED BY: Vincent Bueno, Davey, Felix van Göns, Artur Aigner

PHOTO: Vincent Bueno

BIOGRAPHY:

34-year-old Vincent from Vienna will perform the up-tempo song 'Alive' in May in Rotterdam. Austrian broadcaster ORF will reveal his participating song in March 2020.

Vincent describes himself as someone who is motivated, loves to laugh and is full of love all around. "I love my family above all, have a deep faith and both give me strength in my life. I love music, I love people. I'm very sensitive, which can sometimes be a disadvantage – 'open-hearted'."

Austrian broadcaster ORF shared the following clues that reveal what Vincent and his song 'Alive' will be all about in the form of personal hashtags such as #vincentbueno, #alive, #fireshots and #hiddenheroes, about which Vincent explained: "Each and every one of us has the DNA of a hero or a heroine."

Vincent is incredibly excited to represent Austria in Rotterdam: "Wow, even thinking about the fact that I am going to participate in the song contest gives me goosebumps. The Eurovision Song Contest is like the Eurocup for musicians and singers. The huge stage, all those artists doing their absolute best, all the songwriters and producers of Europe gathering in one place to celebrate their work while at the same time stepping into the ring – it is breathtaking and formidable. Let's go, Austria!"

LYRICS:

Shackled bones, around all these thrones come screaming.
Behind a wall of ego, there is a hidden hero in us, in us,
in all of us.

You make me feel like
Oh oh oh
You make me, you make me feel like, yeah
Oh oh oh
You make me feel like
Oooh
You make me feel alive

You make me feel like I'm alive again, alive again
Only you can make me feel alive again, alive again.
I'm like a little matchbox.
All I need is a little spark.
To light this whole world up, prepare for fire shots.
Only you can make me feel alive again, alive again.

Sticks and stones, might break all I own
come beatin', beatin', beatin'.
Behind a wall of ego, there is a hidden hero in us.

Oh oh oh
You make me feel like ...

You make me feel like I'm alive again, alive again
Only you can make me feel alive again, alive again.
I'm like a little matchbox. All I need is a little spark.
To light this whole world up, prepare for fire shots.
Only you can make me feel alive again, alive again.

You make me feel like I'm alive again, alive again
Only you can make me feel alive again, alive again.

It's overthrown
And I am on my own alive again.

AZERBAIJAN

EFENDI

CLEOPATRA

LYRICS: Luuk van Beers, Alan Roy Scott, Sarah Lake
MUSIC: Luuk van Beers, Alan Roy Scott, Sarah Lake

PHOTO: Ictimai

BIOGRAPHY:

28-year-old Efendi has competed in popular musical programs, such as Yeni Ulduz, Böyük Səhnə (3rd place) and The Voice of Azerbaijan (3rd place). In 2017, she also took part and finished in 3rd place in the Silk Way Star, an international singing competition aired in Kazakhstan. In 2019, she successfully represented Azerbaijan at the Voice of Nur-Sultan, again in Kazakhstan.

After 4 attempts to represent Azerbaijan at the Eurovision Song Contest, her 5th attempt was victorious. Efendi was chosen by an international jury, which included music producers, composers, television industry professionals and journalists, to represent the country with the song Cleopatra. Aside from music, Efendi loves painting, Pilates and dancing.

LYRICS:

Cleopatra was a queen like me,
Just like me, Yeah just like me,
Straight or gay or in between,
In between, Yeah in between,
Betrayed by, A lover,
So hard to, Recover,
Couldn't see the forest for the trees,
Just like me,
Oh, in too deep
There was no intervention,
I was lost, falling out with myself,
I was so filled with tension,
Getting mad was my cry for help,
Now I'm back with a vengeance,
I've found my inner voice again,
And it speaks to my soul loud and clear,
And it sounds like this,

Nam-myoho-renge-kyo,
Nam-myoho-renge-kyo,
Like Cleopatra,
La la la la (x3)
Like Cleopatra
La la la la (x3)
Like Cleopatra

Cleopatra had Mark Antony,
You know who I mean, Not the Latin king,
The one from Rome who lived long ago,
After Caesar died, Cleo's gigolo,
Part Goddess, Part temptress,

The way he left her, It was shameless,
She was her own worst enemy,
Just like me, Yeah just like me but,
Now I'm back with a vengeance,
I've found my inner voice again,
And it speaks to my soul loud and clear,
And it sounds like this,

Nam-myoho-renge-kyo,
Nam-myoho-renge-kyo,
Like Cleopatra,
La la la la (x3)
Like Cleopatra
La la la la (x3)
Like Cleopatra

I can feel,
Her spirit run through me,
I can see it in my mind like a movie,
Egyptian and Latin, the voices run through me,
Come to me,

La la la la (x3)
Like Cleopatra
La la la la (x3)
Like Cleopatra

La la la la (x3)
Like Cleopatra
La la la la (x3)
Like Cleopatra

BELARUS

VAL

DA VIDNA

LYRICS: Mikita Naidzenau
MUSIC: Vladislav Pashkevich, Valeria Gribusova

PHOTO: BRTC

BIOGRAPHY:

VAL is a Belarusian duo consisting of music producer Vlad Pashkevich and singer-songwriter Valerie Gribusova.

Valerie Gribusova participated in The Voice Ukraine and won a vocal competition at the Slavic Bazaar festival. Vlad Pashkevich produced Belarus' Eurovision 2017 entry Story Of My Life by Naviband and has collaborated with various global brands.

Experimenting with genres such as house, R&B, pop, hip-hop, and many other, VAL have been pushing the boundaries of their music and live performances since 2016. With influences of vogue and fashion, the duo consistently surprises fans with extravagant looks. Valerie and Vlad first met in 2015, with the little help of their friends. Their first single, Who Are You, was entirely written and produced by the duo. In May 2017, VAL released their first EP In My Room, which consisted of 5 tracks, mixing house with R&B, along with other electronic musical influences. It helped the duo begin their live performances, along with session drummer and keyboardist. Since then, VAL performed as an opening act for Cream Soda, Zivert, Beissoul & Einius and other famous artists.

In 2018, VAL was featured a ToneTwins' track, where Valerie first experimented with folk vocal influences. On 14 September 2018, VAL released the single Aftermath, along with their first professional music video. The track became a radio hit in Belarus. Their creative path continued to unfold into 2019: VAL released the single Safe Haven, where Vlad sang lead vocals alongside Valerie for the first time.

Near the end of 2019, the duo decided to put themselves forward for the Eurovision Song Contest 2020 and, together with lyricist Mikita Naidzenau, wrote Da Vidna. The single was released in January, and one month later an acoustic version was released along with the music video, shot in one take. On 28 February, the song won the National Selection contest in Belarus and became the Belarusian entry for the Eurovision Song Contest 2020.

LYRICS:

Zaplyatala vosen yasnu kosami dy rasplyala
Zaplutala, yak zima zamyatae stsežki pozniya saboy dabyala
Zapytala, oy našto mne toy, kaho ne vybirala
Oy, zablytala da vidna, nočka tsyomna tayamnitsami i žarstsyu pauna

Da vidna, da vidna zastalasya ne adna
Da vidna, da vidna vostry mesyats nas yadnau
Da vidna, da vidna vostry mesyats nas yadnau
Da vidna, da vidna zastalasya ne adna
Ne maya vina, zastalasya ne adna

Oy, yak mala maladženkaya u džeukah dy pabyla
Oy, yak rana, oy rana, ruža belaya, kamu ty tak kvitnets pačala?
Oy, ty mamo, oy našto mne toy, kaho ne vybirala
Oy, zablytala da vidna nočka tsyomna tayamnitsami i žarstsyu pauna

Da vidna, da vidna zastalasya ne adna
Da vidna, da vidna vostry mesyats nas yadnau
Da vidna, da vidna vostry mesyats nas yadnau
Da vidna, da vidna zastalasya ne adna
Ne maya vina, zastalasya ne adna
Zastalasya ne adna

BELGIUM

HOOVERPHONIC

RELEASE ME

LYRICS: Alex Callier
MUSIC: Alex Callier, Luca Chiaravalli

PHOTO: Zeb Daemen

BIOGRAPHY:

Over the course of their 25-year career, Hooverphonic developed an instantly recognizable sound, somewhere between trip-hop and pop. From day 1, Alex Callier (producer/songwriter) & Raymond Geerts (guitar player) have formed the core of the band and over the years, they have worked with a variety of singers. Since 2018, Luka Cruysberghs is Hooverphonic's singer. In 2017 she won The Voice of Flanders, with Alex as her coach.

Hooverphonic's sound has seen an evolution from the earlier albums A New Stereophonic Sound Spectacular and The Magnificent Tree to the recent (gold) album Looking For Stars. Songs like With Orchestra and In Wonderland show that Hooverphonic succeeds in sounding fresh time and time again, without sacrificing the identity of the band or the connection with their fans.

Singles Mad About You, Badaboum, 2 Wicky, Romantic and Eden were international successes and form the basis of the band's live set. Hooverphonic has toured the United States and Europe multiple times, both on their own and with artists like Moloko and Massive Attack. Recently, the band performed in Japan, representing Belgium at the Belgian Beer Weekend. And in October 2019, they will set off on an extensive European tour.

LYRICS:

Release me
Don't talk go away
Release me
It's not right to make me stay
All the lies and all the pain
Only you can make them go away
Release me from this sad and losing game

Release me
Don't say what I already know
Release me
only trouble steals the show
All those words won't comfort me
It's clear we're not meant to be
Release me from this sad and losing game

You're all I want
A dangerous need
it s wrong to keep you close to me
If you dare
If you care
Then cut the ropes and float away
Yes release me
If you love me, let me go

Release me
Don't talk go away
Release me
It's not right to make me stay
All the lies and all the pain
Only you can make them go away
Release me from this sad and losing game

You're all I want
A dangerous need
it s wrong to keep you close to me
If you dare
If you care
Then cut the ropes and float away
Yes release me
If you love me, let me go

All the lies and all the pain
Only you can make them go away
All those words won't comfort me
It's clear we're not meant to be
Release me from this sad and losing game

BULGARIA

VICTORIA

TEARS GETTING SOBER

LYRICS: Victoria Georgieva, Borislav Milanov, Lukas Oscar Janisch
MUSIC: Victoria Georgieva, Borislav Milanov, Lukas Oscar Janisch

PHOTO: Lora Musheva

BIOGRAPHY:

VICTORIA was announced as Bulgaria's representative for their return to the Eurovision Song Contest at a press conference in Sofia, organized by the Bulgarian public broadcaster Bulgarian National Television (BNT) and her producers from Ligna Studios.

VICTORIA's distinctive voice and style position her as one of the most promising new music artists from Bulgaria. She became popular after participating in the 4th season of X Factor Bulgaria. Her latest single, I Wanna Know, gained hundreds of thousands of streams across YouTube and Spotify over the summer. She presented the official video of the song in Sofia and Madrid. Her debut solo album is expected to be released in 2020.

Of the opportunity ahead of her, VICTORIA said: "In the beginning of 2019, I just couldn't imagine how many opportunities will open up for me. I am proud to be the Bulgarian artist in Rotterdam. I am privileged to be able to make music that I believe in and to have the freedom to be who I am. Being the Bulgarian ambassador on such a huge stage is a big responsibility."

LYRICS:

Great, feel my head is taking over me
10 déjà vus a day
and each time I'm getting colder,
pain, I should let it go

Your lies burn like sugar in my wounds
In time my wound will be a scar

Strained but my tears are getting sober now
and I've been here before so,
weight that I'm holding on my shoulders,
I'm gonna let it go

This is my first time trying
Look how the tables turn
I've got this dirt inside me
I've got some space to grow

Your lies burn like sugar in my wounds
So I have sweet bruises
In time I'll forget what you have done
In time my wound will be a scar

My pain will soon be over
Oh, how the tables turn
Tears are getting sober
I got some space to grow

Your lies burn like sugar in my wounds
So I have sweet bruises
In time I'll forget what you have done
In time my wound will be a scar

CROATIA

DAMIR KEDŽO

DIVLJI VJETRE

LYRICS: Ante Pecotić
MUSIC: Ante Pecotić

PHOTO: Damir Kedžo Promo

BIOGRAPHY:

Damir Kedžo is a 32-year-old pop singer and one of the most recognizable faces within the Croatian music scene. Kedžo was born in Omišalj, on the island of Krk, and began his music career by participating in a music show 16 years ago. For the last few years, Kedžo's songs have been among the most-played in Croatia, and his singles are award-winning hits.

He has also tried his hand at acting and won the Croatian Actor Award for his role in the famous musical, Crna Kuća. He captivated the audience with the song Sve u meni se budi, which won the title of the most-played song in Croatia. Ever since that time his songs have been one hit after another. His song Srce mi umire za njom won the Zagreb Festival, and Vidi se izdaleka and Poljubi me sad captured the air and the hearts of his audience.

He was the most listened-to male singer in 2019 in Croatia, for which he received the Best Male Performer Award according to official statistics. He was nominated for a Porin Award for Best Male Vocal Performance, the most important professional award in the country. Damir Kedžo has successfully performed abroad, winning the Grand Prix of the Slavyansk Bazaar Festival in Vitebsk, Belarus, and winning the New Wave Festival in Sochi, Russia.

LYRICS:

Jednom kad zaboraviš mi ime
I krevet hladan postane
Kao snijegom okovane zime
Kad ništa ne preostane
Ja ću te voljeti i tad
Divlji vjetre

U tišini ostavi me gdje sam
Svaka riječ sad prosta je
Odlazi i pusti me da ne znam
Kako čovjek postaje
Ono što nisi više

Divlji vjetre
Tu na moj prag
Uvelo lišće donesi mi
I kišu neka ostavi trag
Tuge u bojama jeseni
A činilo se
Zauvijek smo dušom i tijelom zaneseni

Ostaje mi
Tuga u bojama jeseni

Ono što nisi više...
Hladna kao
Kiša ledena
Kada voljet prestaneš
I kidaj grane
Nukrotivo
Ali prije nego nestaneš

Divlji vjetre
Tu na moj prag
Uvelo lišće donesi mi
I kišu neka ostavi trag
Tuge u bojama jeseni
A činilo se

Zauvijek smo dušom i tijelom zaneseni
Divlji vjetre
Ostaje mi
Tuga u bojama jeseni
Tuga u bojama jeseni
Tuga u bojama jeseni

CYPRUS

SANDRO

RUNNING

LYRICS: Alfie Arcuri, Sebastian Rickards, Octavian Rasinariu, Sandro
MUSIC: Alfie Arcuri, Sebastian Rickards, Octavian Rasinariu, Sandro, Teo DK

PHOTO: CyBC

BIOGRAPHY:

Sandro, born Alessandro H. Ruetten was born on 2 August 1996 in Germany, where he currently resides. The German, English and Greek artist was chosen by CyBC, Cyprus' public broadcaster, to represent the country in Rotterdam in 2020 not only to his Greek roots but his unique voice and artistic vision.

Sandro began his music career at the early age of 4 when he started to sing and play the drums. Influenced by his musically-inclined family, Sandro started playing the guitar when he was 8 and at 19 the piano was added to his list of talents. He founded his first band when he was 15 years old and it was at this teenage stage that he started to write and produce his own songs, predominantly of the rock and pop genres. Sandro is characterized by his recognizable and colourful voice and his natural ability to connect with the audience and thus convey the emotions of the songs he performs.

In 2018, Sandro's cousin filed an application on his behalf for The Voice of Germany. Sandro reached the 'blind auditions', making his TV debut with a cover of In My Blood by Shawn Mendes. Strengthened by all that he gained from The Voice, Sandro was invited to represent the United States at the 2019 New Wave Festival, the most prestigious International singing event in Russia, broadcasted live by Channel 1, Russia's public broadcaster.

LYRICS:

I don't feel like talking, let me sit here alone.
The phone's calling, I can't pick it up

I'm tired of running from these demons
(demons)
I'm tired of running from these demons, I can't
see any more
I can't see anymore

But I keep on running, I keep on running
I keep on running away
Now I keep on running, I keep on running
I don't wanna fall again

Drowning out my memories, from the night
before
Door's knocking, just leave me alone

Looking - losing
My energy - tripping
Anybody tow me back home

(Yeah yeah)

Standing naked
Putting on fake smiles
I don´t wanna be sad anymore

I don't wanna fall again

I'm not gonna fall again

CZECH REPUBLIC

BENNY CRISTO

KEMAMA

LYRICS: Ben Cristovao, Charles Sarpong
MUSIC: Osama Hussain, Rudy Ray, Filip Zangi

PHOTO: ČT

BIOGRAPHY:

Benny Cristo, born Ben Cristovao, was born in the Czech city called Plzeň. He is a singer, lyric writer, sportsman and actor. Ben's mother is from the Czech Republic and his father from the Southern Africa country of Angola.

Ben is one of the most significant mainstream artists on the Czech scene, singing in both Czech and English. His music career began in 2009 when he appeared on a Czech singing contest on television. Before that, Benny was a sportsman on a professional level; known for both tennis and snowboarding. The experience gained from his participation in the singing contest show motivated him to focus more on his music career.

In 2010, he released his debut album Definitely Different and, 2 years after, the album Benny Cristo. In 2014, he released an album called Made In Czechoslovakia, which he celebrated with a concert in a Prague hall Forum Karlin with 4,500 visitors. In 2017, he released an EP called Poslední which he performed live during an open-air gig in Prague for 7,000 visitors. In 2019, Ben released his EP Kontakt and performed for 15,000 people in Prague's O2 Arena. This year he wants to repeat the event in the O2 Arena again.

LYRICS:

Ay, Benny Cristo and Glowsticks
Some of y'all already know
Haha

Kemama, you know
They can say what they want, you should let it go
'Cause tonight I will sho-o-ow love
I'll show them I can dance on my own

They say I lost my way
Lost my way? Never lost my way, oh, no
I know where I go, don't care what they say
Never care what they say, oh, yeah
I'm high, I'm lifted like sir Bob Marley
Bob Marley, oh, yeah
I'm 'bout to show them all I'mma kill it
Ali Boomaye, oh, yeah
I'mma put my heart on the stove
Let y'all feel the heat
You'll be playing with the fire
If you dance with me
I wasn't always like that
I wasn't born like that
I just work like that 24/7

Kemama, you know
They can say what they want, you should let it go, ey
'Cause tonight I will sho-o-ow love
I'll show them I can dance on my own

Kemama, you know
In this concrete jungle it was not easy to grow up, nah, nah, nah

But every time they pushed my down
I answered with this smile and I got up, yeah
Like you told me

I'mma put my heart on the stove
Let y'all feel the heat
You'll be playing with the fire
If you dance with me
I wasn't always like that
I wasn't born like that
I just work like that 24/7

Kemama, you know
They can say what they want, you should let it go, ey
'Cause tonight I will sho-o-ow love
I'll show them I can dance on my own
Kemama, you know
They can say what they want, you should let it go
'Cause tonight I will sho-o-ow love
I'll show them I can dance on my own (Ey, ey, ey)

See, I don't care if you are not like me
I just came to dance
We should dance all night, babe, night, babe
And I don't care if they don't like me
All I do is dance, I don't care about their fighting
Why they fighting

Kemama, you know
They can say what they want, you should let it go, ey
'Cause tonight I will sho-o-ow love
I'll show them I can dance on my own
Kemama, you know
They can say what they want, you should let it go, ey
'Cause tonight I will sho-o-ow love
I'll show them I can dance on my own.

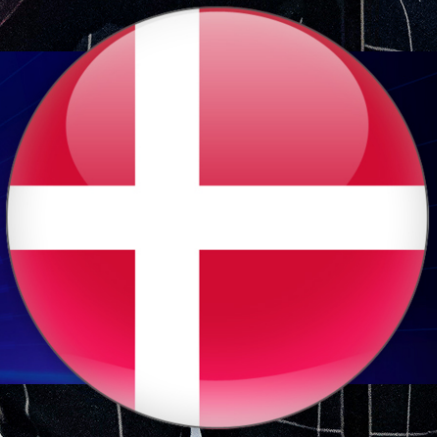
DENMARK

BEN & TAN

YES

WRITTEN BY: Emil Adler Lei, Jimmy Jansson, Linnea Deb
COMPOSED BY: Emil Adler Lei, Jimmy Jansson, Linnea Deb

PHOTO: ESCplus



BIOGRAPHY:

Benjamin Tsimalona Rosenbom and Tanne Amanda Balcells are the multicultural Danish pop duo, Ben & Tan, competing in the Eurovision Song Contest 2020 in Rotterdam. Ben was born in 2002 in Berlin to his German mother and Malagasy father. Tan was born in Barcelona to her Danish mother and Spanish father.

Ben & Tan both live in Denmark and met each other during X Factor Denmark in 2019 as co-competitors. During the season, they often found themselves jamming to Ed Sheeran songs backstage; it was meant to be that they later would join forces as a charismatic duo.

Ben & Tan will participate with the upbeat and happy song YES: what could be more positive than saying yes? YES has some notable songwriters behind it, including prolific Swedish composer and former Melodifestivalen act, Jimmy Jansson. Also included is Linnea Deb, who co-wrote Sweden's Eurovision 2015 winning song Heroes and Emil Lei co-wrote and produced last year's Danish entry Love is Forever.

YES is a hopeful song encouraging everyone to say yes to life and love even in hard times. "Our dream is to have everyone at Eurovision shouting 'YES' back at us, and we are very much looking forward to spreading the message all over Europe," says Ben & Tan.

LYRICS:

I was 6 feet under for the one and only
Spend the nights feeling bitter sad and lonely
Didn't realize how much fear controlled me
Until you came and loved me like I'm holy

Now I'm ready to give life one more chance
Hey

I think my heart is beating me to death
I have got an arrow through my chest
I am so in love I must confess
Say Yes Say Yes Say Yes
I think my heart is beating me to death
I have got an arrow through my chest
I am so in love I must confess
Say Yes Say Yes

Uhhh

Never thought I would be high on life but sober
Didn't think I would be able to turn this over
Let's make stories to talk about when we are older
Come and rest your pretty head upon my shoulder

Now I'm ready to give life one more chance
Hey

I think my heart is beating me to death
I have got an arrow through my chest
I am so in love I must confess
Say Yes Say Yes Say Yes
I think my heart is beating me to death
I have got an arrow through my chest
I am so in love I must confess
Say Yes Say Yes

Hey
Uhhhhhhh
Say Yes Say Yes Say Yes
Uhhhhhhh

Let's make stories to talk about when we are older
Mmmm, come and rest your pretty head upon my shoulder

Uhhhhhhh
Ohhhhhh
Say Yes Say Yes
Say yes

I think my heart is beating me to death
I have got an arrow through my chest
I am so in love I must confess
Say Yes Say Yes Say Yes

Say yes

I think my heart is beating me to death
I have got an arrow through my chest
I am so in love I must confess
Say Yes Say Yes

I think my heart is beating me to death
I have got an arrow through my chest
I am so in love so just say yes

ESTONIA

UKU SUVISTE

WHAT LOVE IS

LYRICS: Sharon Vaughn
MUSIC: Uku Suviste

PHOTO: ERR

BIOGRAPHY:

Uku's father is a TV producer, and his mother is a classically trained singer. Still, instead of pursuing music, she devoted her energies to working for the Estonian General Staff, at the Estonian Defence Forces.

After graduating from university as a Computer Systems Administrator, he studied Singing and Contemporary Writing & Production at the prestigious Berklee College of Music in Massachusetts, USA, making the Dean's List every semester. In 2011, he became a patron of UNICEF Estonia, and in 2012, he produced a song in collaboration with the Estonian Ministry of Defence & Defence Forces called Võitmatu (Invincible), dedicated to all the Estonian soldiers who had served in Afghanistan.

In 2018 he set his sights abroad and took part in The Voice Russia, landing himself on the team of Ukrainian Eurovision icon, Ani Lorak. Uku made it to the semi-final round. No stranger to the Estonian Eurovision selection process, Uku has competed in Eesti Laul several times, with his previous closest success coming last year when he finished second with the song Pretty Little Liar.

Uku has been involved in many other festivals, singing competitions, television shows and productions - most notably the 2010 New Wave Festival, where he placed third, and a stint playing Danny in the Estonian production of Grease! In his spare time, Uku is a big fan of playing tennis, going to the gym and running. He has previously been named by Kroonika magazine as 'Estonia's Sexiest Man'. He has a fondness for football and cars and speaks three languages; Estonian, English and Russian.

His song, What Love Is, was composed by Uku Suviste himself, with lyrics by Stockholm-based US songwriter Sharon Vaughn. It was recorded and produced in Greece. The song is a dramatic ode to feelings that come with falling in love and was inspired by musical theatre.

LYRICS:

How mysterious this life can be
Full of beautiful surprises
I never really knew the man I thought was me

Dreams that I believed
Convinced my destiny
I was meant to be alone

But how can you know how a star looks
If you've never looked at the sky
I couldn't have told you what blue is
Till I looked into your eyes,
Or how soft the feel of a cloud is
'Till I was touching your skin
The world is a wonder of wonders I'd never seen

I never imagined the power
I never imagined the need
I never imagined what love is
now love is all I dream
How wonderful was the awakening
Now everything is the sunrise
Painted in sounds of your breathing
Coloured by your signs
I never knew
what it was to - love
Much too sensible too reasonable
Ever to believe in miracles

But now you've come to me
Changed my destiny
I'll never be alone

I never imagined the power
I never imagined the need
I never imagined what love is
now love is all I dream
How wonderful was the awakening
Now everything is the sunrise
Painted in sounds of your breathing
Coloured by your signs

I never imagined the power
I never imagined the need
I never imagined what love is
now love is all I dream

I never imagined the power
I never knew
what it was to - love

FINLAND

AKSEL

LOOKING BACK

LYRICS & MUSIC: Joonas Angeria, Whitney Phillips, Connor McDonough, Riley McDonough, Toby McDonough

PHOTO: Mona Salminen

BIOGRAPHY:

Aksel Kankaanranta took part in The Voice of Finland 2017 and featured in the prize-winning megahit Jättiläinen (Giant) of Finnish artist Pyhimys. Aksel is determined to show that being shy shouldn't prevent you from performing before an audience. "People ask me why I want to appear before an audience of one million, even though I'm shy. Why should that be a problem? I want to fulfil myself and provoke strong feelings and reactions. I want to transmit emotions with my singing."

For Aksel, The Voice of Finland was a great learning experience and the best part was the chance to perform before large audiences. "It was like a baptism by fire. I realized that I'm not nervous almost at all when on stage. I'm also looking forward to UMK and expect that it will be an equally great experience. There I'll have the chance to concentrate on my performance; in fact, I can be the personal radio beacon of my song," Aksel explains.

Aksel's piece, Looking Back, is a sensitive song of world-weariness, love and the feeling of inadequacy. "We set all kinds of milestones in our lives. Are they actually of any value and does achieving them really make us happy?," Aksel asks, describing the song.

Looking Back is the result of a collaboration between Joonas Angeria and Whitney Philips, as well as brothers Connor, Toby and Riley McDonough. Angeria, from Finland, has made music for Finnish and international stars like Alma, Vesala, Julie Bergan and Iscar Elliot. Whitney Philips has written songs for Christina Aguilera and Zara Larsson, among other artists. Connor, Toby and Riley McDonough are behind the American pop rock band Before You Exit.

LYRICS:

We would fall asleep
Talking 'bout our dreams
Waiting for eighteen
Is never what it seems

We were young and naive
Didn't know what we need
We were in such a rush to grow up

We were restless, confused
Summer nights on the roof
Didn't know what was in front of us

Chasing the high life
Stuck in the low lights
But we never know what we have
Until it's over and we're looking back

Speeding through red lights
We had a good ride
But we never know what we have
Until it's over and we're looking back

All these memories
Made me feel at home
When I walk these streets
I'm the only one, I know

We were young and naive
Didn't know what we need
We were in such a rush to grow up

Now it's too late to save
All the seasons have changed
Didn't know what was in front of us

Yeah we never know what we have
Until it's over and we're looking back

FRANCE

TOM LEEB

MON ALLIÉE (THE BEST IN ME)

LYRICS: Peter Boström, Thomas G:son, John Lundvik, Tom Leeb, Amir Haddad, Lea Ivanne
MUSIC: Peter Boström, Thomas G:son, John Lundvik

PHOTO: Arno Lam - France TV

BIOGRAPHY:

Tom's music inspirations are other male singer-songwriters, such as Ben Howard, Matt Corby Bon Iver and John Mayer. He has also played as the supporting act for international stars such as Sting and Tom Jones.

Tom spent 5 years in New York, studying theatre, cinema and singing. He has since performed in a theatrical adaption of Mrs. Doubtfire and acted in French TV shows and movies alongside established stars such as Jean Reno. He also performs as part of a comedy duo with fellow comedian Kevin Levy. As Kevin & Tom, the pair have a popular YouTube channel which includes skits and songs.

2020 starts with a new challenge for Tom: representing France at the Eurovision Song Contest in Rotterdam. About the experience, Tom says: "The Eurovision Song Contest is an iconic event; I am so proud to be representing France, and I can't wait to live this experience with you all."

LYRICS:

La nuit comme un écho
Comme un reflet à tes mots
Dans mon coeur je lis
Un éternel récit
De toi, de toi, de toi, de toi

You, you are the best in me
Au fond de moi j'ai compris
You are, you are, you are
Et tout ce qu'on s'est jamais dit
Revient me hanter jour et nuit
You are, you are, you are
You are the best in me

J'irai au bout des sens
Faire voyager mon innocence
Pour qu'ils donnent vie
A tout ce qu'on s'est promis
You are, you are, you are, you are

You, you are the best in me
Au fond de moi j'ai compris
You are, you are, you are
Et tout ce qu'on s'est jamais dit
Revient me hanter jour et nuit
You are, you are, you are
You are the best in me

On est liés mon alliée
Même si le temps devait s'arrêter
Sans toi, je perds le meilleur de moi...

You are the best in me
You are, you are, you are
You are the best in me
Au fond de moi j'ai compris
You are, you are, you are
In every breath I breath
For ever eternally
You are, you are, you are
You are the best in me
You are the best in me...

GEORGIA

TORNIKE KIPIANI

TAKE ME AS I AM

LYRICS: Tornike Kipiani
MUSIC: Tornike Kipiani

PHOTO: Temo Kvirkvelia

BIOGRAPHY:

Tornike Kipiani was born 11 December 1987 in Tbilisi, Georgia. He is a 32-year-old musician, the father of 3 children and a professional architect. When he founded his own band at age 19, he didn't even consider becoming a vocalist. While Tornike and his bandmates looked for an additional member to fill that vacant spot, he took that spot. The rest is history.

In 2014, Tornike won the first season of X Factor Georgia, where his mentor was the future Georgian-Greek Cyprus Eurovision star, Tamta. In 2017, Tornike tried to represent Georgia at Eurovision with the industrial techno song, You Are My Sunshine. In 2019, he returned to Georgian Idol and was selected to represent Georgia in the Eurovision Song Contest 2020 after winning the show. Tornike will enter with the song Take Me As I Am.

LYRICS:

How do you want me to talk, like an Englishman?
Where do you want me to dress like an Italyn?
Now, do you want me to dance like a Spanish guy?
I guess you don't love me.
No, you don't love me.

I love you
Ti amo
Tue quiero
#Takemeasiam

But you don't love me,
Why don't you love me?
So tell me, why do you want me to smell like a French homme?

Or tell me, why do you want me to play like a German?
Why don't you want me to be, just the way I am?
I guess you don't love me,
Why don't you love me?

Je t'aime
Ich liebe dich
But you don't love me,
Why you don't love me?
I love you, I love you

GERMANY

BEN DOLIC

VIOLENT THING

LYRICS: Borislav Milanov, Peter St. James, Dag Lundberg
MUSIC: Borislav Milanov, Peter St. James, Dag Lundberg, Jimmy Thorén, Connor Martin

PHOTO: Zlatimir Arakliev

BIOGRAPHY:

A Berliner-by-choice who grew up in Slovenia and has lived in Switzerland for years, Ben is an ideal representative of modern and cosmopolitan Germany on the Eurovision stage. Born on May 4, 1997, in the Slovenian capital of Ljubljana, he began to pursue his dream of music at the age of 12.

With a performance of Michael Jackson's Man in the Mirror, he applied for Slovenia's Got Talent and made it to the semi-final round. He spent his youth making music, for instance as a member of rap/pop group D Base who took part in the Slovenian Eurovision national selection show EMA in 2016. At 18, Ben moved to Switzerland with his family, where he first learned the German language – and continued to advance his career. In 2017 he released his first solo single.

Then, in 2018, Ben made the most important decision in his still-growing but promising career: he applied for The Voice of Germany. Ben made it to the Blind Auditions, where he immediately enchanted both jurors and audience with his voice – one that calls to mind musical icons like Michael Jackson and Justin Timberlake. Eventually, Ben reached second place in the finals and performed around Germany and Austria as part of the Voice of Germany Tour.

Next, Ben is looking forward to representing his chosen home country at the Eurovision Song Contest in Rotterdam – with the stirring, energetic song, Violent Thing.

LYRICS:

Got that thing that I can't deny
Killing me soft with the big brown eyes
Such a violent thing, would you let me know
Knockin' me down like a domino

You know that I'm, right here, I'm working on love
I'm waiting on something I need
I think that you, you know, you know what I want
You got me on the edge of my seat

Oh don't tell your mama
Whatchu' doin' tonight
Twenty-four hours ago you got that look in your eyes
Don't need your number
Cus I know you'll be there
Happen all night and the beat don't lie we're crystal clear

Cus if I got you with me tonight
Feeling like I'm feeling tonight

Don't tell your mama
Oooh you're such a violent thing
Oooh you're such a violent thing

Shooting high we're getting low
Guns and roses all alone
And I wanna hear what you gotta say
But you won't give me no audio

You know that I'm, right here, I'm working on love
I'm waiting on something I need
I think that you, you know, you know what I want
You got me on the edge of my seat

Oh don't tell your mama
Whatchu' doin' tonight
Twenty-four hours ago you got that look in your eyes
Don't need your number
Cus I know you'll be there
Happen all night and the beat don't lie we're crystal clear

Cus if I got you with me tonight
Feeling like I'm feeling tonight

Don't tell your mama
Oooh you're such a violent thing

Oh don't tell your mama
Whatchu' doin' tonight

Heyy
If I got you...

Cus if I got you with me tonight
Feeling like I'm feeling tonight

Don't tell your mama
Oooh you're such a violent thing
Oooh you're such a violent thing

Don't tell your mama
Oooh you're such a violent thing

GREECE

STEFANIA

SUPERG!RL

LYRICS: Dimítris Kontópoulos, Arcade, Sharon Vaughn
MUSIC: Dimítris Kontópoulos, Arcade

PHOTO: ERT

BIOGRAPHY:

Stefania was born in the Dutch city of Utrecht in 2002. She started singing at the age of 8 and rose to fame 2 years later, when she competed in 'The Voice Kids'. She also sang as part of the Dutch kids choir 'Kinderen voor Kinderen (Kids for Kids)'.

In 2016, Stefania represented the Netherlands at the Junior Eurovision Song Contest as part of the girl group Kisses. They finished 8th at the contest in Valletta, Malta. Since then, Stefania has been performing as a solo singer and has her own YouTube channel and popular TikTok account.

Stefania has released 4 solo singles to date. Released in 2018, Stupid Reasons has reached more than 1 million views on YouTube.

LYRICS:

Keep the phone booth, don't need a supercar
No x-ray vision to show them who we are
I got the power, climb up the tower
Save all humanity on zero hour

Na-na-nothing can stop me, no-nobody can hold me down
Standing in the light, it's a new world, let me be your supergirl

Na-na-nothing can stop me, no-nobody can hold us down
Fighting in the dark over true love, let me be your supergirl

I'm your supergirl
Fighting from the heart

I'm your supergirl, supergirl, unana
In this crazy world, crazy world, unana
I'm your supergirl, supergirl, unana
Fighting from the heart, from the heart, unana

There's no wonder it takes a woman
To be a hero more than a human
To overflow your heart with electricity
Find through the shadows your true identity

Na-na-nothing can stop me, no-nobody can hold me down
Standing in the light, it's a new world, let me be your supergirl

Na-na-nothing can stop me, no-nobody can hold us down
Fighting in the dark over true love, let me be your supergirl

Na-na-nothing can stop me, no-nobody can hold us down
Fighting in the dark over true love, let me be your supergirl

I'm your supergirl
Fighting from the heart

I'm your supergirl, supergirl, unana
In this crazy world, crazy world, unana
I'm your supergirl, supergirl, unana
Fighting from the heart, from the heart, unana

Fly, give me a signal and I'll fly
On a supersonic high
Like a hero in the sky
I will stand by your side

I'm your supergirl, supergirl, unana
In this crazy world, crazy world, unana
I'm your supergirl, supergirl, unana
Fighting from the heart

I'm your supergirl, supergirl, unana
In this crazy world, crazy world, unana
I'm your supergirl, supergirl, unana
Fighting from the heart

I'm your supergirl

ICELAND

DAÐI OG GAGNAMAGNIÐ

THINK ABOUT THINGS

LYRICS: Daði Freyr
MUSIC: Daði Freyr

PHOTO: Mummi Lu

BIOGRAPHY:

Music and family are the most important things in the world to Daði Freyr. It's what drives him forward, what inspires him, and what keeps him rooted in Iceland and the close-knit communities he has always adored.

An artist who obsesses over the intricate craft of the pop song, Daði is a student of Eurovision. Working with the group Gagnamagnið – which translates as 'data plan' - their song Think About Things radiates with all the joy and unity the competition can provide, while also offering something deeply authentic and new.

It all started in his small Berlin studio: Part of the Icelandic diaspora, Daði takes a part of the island with him wherever he goes. Think About Things was directly inspired by becoming a father and by changes in life; things that brought him closer to those around him. His wife, Árný Fjóla Ásmundsdóttir, is on the keys, and his 2 sisters provide backing vocals. Daði even borrowed a vintage microphone from his father – a noted sound engineer – to help get the perfect sound. 'Think About Things' is an irresistibly joyous song that not only connects Europe; it also links three generations of his own family. Think About Things is impeccably pieced together, from the layered breakdown to the tongue in cheek wind machine section. The song is designed to be seen by the world, all part of his complex masterplan, coupled with the stunning live performances and the viral video.

Daði worked with Icelandic director Guðný Rós Þórhallsdóttir and cinematographer Birta Rán Björgvinsdóttir to bring his dream to life. The family-based performance clip self-consciously plays within Eurovision rules – instruments cannot be plugged in onstage – while offering something jubilant and gently triumphant. Humble focused on the music, Daði Freyr ends the song as he begins – surrounded by his family, reaching out to Europe.

LYRICS:

Baby I can't wait to know.
Believe me I'll always be there so.

Though I know I love you
I find it hard to see how you feel about me.
'Cause I don't understand you .
Oh you are yet to learn how to speak.

When we first met
I will never forget.
'Cause even though I didn't know you yet.
We were bound together then and forever
and I could never let you go.

Baby I can't wait to know
what do you think about things.
Believe me I will always be there so
you can tell me anything and I'll listen.

When we are together
there isn't anywhere that I would rather be.
Three birds of a feather
I just hope you enjoy our company.

It's been some time
and though hard to define,
as if the stars have started to align.

We are bound together,
now and forever
and I will never let you go.

Baby I can't wait to know
what do you think about things.
Believe me I will always be there so
you can tell me anything and I'll listen.

I might even know what to say
but either way at least I'll be there.

Baby I can't wait to know
what do you think about things.
Believe me I will always be there so
you can tell me anything and I'll listen.

IRELAND

LESLEY ROY

STORY OF MY LIFE

LYRICS: Lesley Roy, Catt Gravitt, Tom Shapiro
MUSIC: Lesley Roy, Robert Marvin, Catt Gravitt, Tom Shapiro

PHOTO: Luca Truffarelli

BIOGRAPHY:

Lesley Roy is a singer-songwriter from Balbriggan Co. Dublin, Ireland. She splits her time between her home in the East Village of New York City and her native Ireland. Lesley released her debut album, 'Unbeautiful', while in New York in 2008 on Jive/Sony Records, produced by Max Martin.

As a songwriter, Lesley's career has been prolific, lending her talents to numbers performed by artists including Adam Lambert, Miss Montreal, Medina, Jana Kramer, Marlee Scott and Deorro. A lifelong fan of Eurovision, Lesley said that getting to represent Ireland in 2020 with a song she worked extremely hard on is a lifetime ambition fulfilled. Ireland's entry, Story of My Life, was penned and co-produced by Lesley Roy alongside some of her favourite co-writers in Nashville: Robert Marvin, Catt Gravitt and Tom Shapiro." We wanted something uptempo and triumphant, which centres around overcoming your difficulties in life and getting back up again," Lesley says.

Writing her album with Max Martin in Sweden and performing at Coachella with Deorro has been Lesley's major career highlights to date, and Lesley is hopeful that her experience in Eurovision 2020 will surpass these memorable moments. She credits early Motown, Fleetwood Mac and Sheryl Crow among her early musical influences, and more recently, she has been inspired by acts including Robyn, Kacey Musgrave and Christine and the Queens. Lesley said that working with theatre-makers and club creators ThisIsPopBaby on this year's Irish entry "changes the game as far as Ireland and the European song competition goes - ThisIsPopBaby are injecting a fresh, fun vision that encapsulates a modern Ireland."

Of her Eurovision ambitions for Rotterdam 2020, Lesley says: "My mindset for the coming months is to train, rehearse, prepare, perform, execute and hopefully bring Eurovision glory back to Ireland once again."

LYRICS:

Everybody told me that I'd never be someone,
I'm not a puppet on a string no, no I'm not,
Everybody said that I was always breaking rules,
Why would I ever wanna put myself inside a box.

I don't care, what they say,
And who are they, anyway.

The story of my life, it's mine,
I made it on my own, that's right,
And now I sing, na na na na na na, Hey! Hey! Hey!
My life, it's mine, my my life it's mine.

They said if I was blonde that I could make it so I did it,
Then they said you're almost perfect but you talk too much. HA!
Try to dumb it down a little, make sure that you're in the middle,
Rock it all you want but make it pop enough!

I don't care, what they say,
And who are they, anyway,

The story of my life, It's Mine,
I made it on my own, that's right
And now I sing, na na na na na na, Hey! Hey! Hey!
My life it's mine, my, my life it's mine,

It's the story of my life, that's right,
There's more to me than meets the eye,
And now I sing, na na na na na na, Hey! Hey! Hey!
My Life it's mine my, my life it's mine.

My life yeah I'm gonna be me, yeah I'm gonna believe it's right!
My life yeah I gotta be me, yeah I gotta believe it's right!

The story of my life, it's mine,
I made it on my own, that's right
And now I sing, na na na na na na, Hey! Hey! Hey!
My life it's mine, my my life it's mine,
It's the story of my life, that's right,
There's more to me than meets the eye,
And now I sing, na na na na na na, Hey! Hey! Hey!
My life it's mine, my my life it's mine.

I don't care,
What you say.

ISRAEL

EDEN ALENE

FEKER LIBI

LYRICS: Doron Medalie, Idan Raichel
MUSIC: Doron Medalie, Idan Raichel

PHOTO: Ran Yehezkel

BIOGRAPHY:

With both parents hailing from Ethiopia, 20-year-old Eden Alene was born in Jerusalem. After studying ballet for 11 years through her young life, Eden started taking vocal training lessons and soon after decided to pursue a career in music.

While living in Jerusalem as a teenager, Eden was in a choir of local young adults who would come together from all backgrounds and religions to show the potential of music to bring people together.

Growing up, Eden was particularly taken with soul and pop artists such as Beyoncé, Jennifer Hudson and Chris Brown. She takes inspiration from many different styles and genres of music, including Arabic folk music, Gospel and Opera as well.

In 2018, Eden won X Factor Israel and, 2 years later, The Next Star, Israel's national selection show for the Eurovision Song Contest. Today, Eden serves in the military as a singer in a band and splits her time between performances in the army, in Israel and abroad.

LYRICS:

ፍቅር ልቤ , እወድሃለሁ;ና ወደ እኔ, I love you
Once upon a time
I was looking for a sign
Pachamama, Pachamama
Show the way, oh be my guide

Love is on the mind
Close your eyes and you will find
Melodia, Melodia
Feel the energy inside

Say: all the people coming, coming my way
Love is on my way
Maka Lakuma De De, Maka Lakuma de masa
Maka Lakuma De De, Maka Lakuma

Feker libi
Tonight is our story
We celebrate the glory
We have no shame
Feker libi
I'm not ashamed to love you
Tonight I'm gonna find you
I call your name

ፍቅር ልቤ
حبيب قلبي
אהוב ליבי, אותך אני אוהבת

Look at us tonight
Color party side to side
Confetti Ya, Confetti Ya
Falling on us from the sky
Say: all the people coming, coming my way
Love is on my way
Maka Lakuma De De, Maka Lakuma de masa
Maka Lakuma De De, Maka Lakuma

Feker libi
Tonight is our story
We celebrate the glory
We have no shame
Feker libi
I'm not ashamed to love you
Tonight I'm gonna find you
I call your name

ፍቅር ልቤ
حبيب قلبي
אהוב ליבי, אותך אני אוהבת

ፍቅር ልቤ , እወድሃለሁ;ና ወደ እኔ, I love you

ITALY

DIODATO

FAI RUMORE

LYRICS: Antonio Diodato
MUSIC: Antonio Diodato, Edwyn Roberts

PHOTO: Carosello - Giuseppe Gradella

BIOGRAPHY:

Diodato made his record debut in April 2013 with E forse sono pazzo (And maybe I'm crazy) which was met with critical acclaim. The following year, he participated in the 64th Edition of Sanremo Festival 'Newcomers' category with his song Babilonia, where he reached second place. In the same year, he also won the Italian 'Best Newcomer' award at the MTV Awards.

In 2016, Diodato signed a record deal with Carosello Records and released his next album Cosa siamo diventati. The album's first single, Mi si scioglie la bocca, entered Spotify's VIRAL 50 less than 24 hours after its release.

The performer then participated again in Sanremo in 2018 with trumpet player Roy Paci and the song Adesso, reaching 8th place among the Big artists. The song received the praise of the judges and the public. Between this and his winning Sanremo return, Diodato made a cameo in the film Un'Avventura with Laura Chiatti and Michele Rondino, in which he reinterpreted a famous piece by Lucio Battisti.

Diodato returned to Sanremo for the third time in 2020, winning the contest with the song Fai Rumore. In addition, the song received the Mia Martini Critics Award, the Lucio Dalla Radio, TV and Web Press Room Award and the Lunezia Award for song lyrics.

Written and composed by Diodato, in collaboration with Edwyn Roberts, Fai Rumore quickly conquered the Italian streaming, download and radio charts. The song is released on his fourth album, Che vita meravigliosa.

LYRICS:

Sai che cosa penso
Che non dovrei pensare
Che se poi penso sono un animale
E se ti penso tu sei un'anima

Ma forse è questo temporale
Che mi porta da te
E lo so non dovrei farmi trovare
Senza un ombrello anche se

Ho capito che
Per quanto io fugga
Torno sempre a te
Che fai rumore qui
E non lo so se mi fa bene
Se il tuo rumore mi conviene

Ma fai rumore sì
Che non lo posso sopportare
Questo silenzio innaturale
Tra me e te

E me ne vado in giro senza parlare
Senza un posto a cui arrivare
Consumo le mie scarpe

E forse le mie scarpe
Sanno bene dove andare
Che mi ritrovo negli stessi posti
Proprio quei posti che dovevo evitare
E faccio finta di non ricordare
E faccio finta di dimenticare

Ma capisco che
Per quanto io fugga
Torno sempre a te
Che fai rumore qui
E non lo so se mi fa bene
Se il tuo rumore mi conviene

Ma fai rumore sì
Che non lo posso sopportare
Questo silenzio innaturale tra me e te

Ma fai rumore sì
Che non lo posso sopportare
Questo silenzio innaturale
E non ne voglio fare a meno oramai
Di quel bellissimo rumore che fai

LATVIA

SAMANTA TĪNA

STILL BREATHING

LYRICS: Aminata Savadogo
MUSIC: Samanta Tīna

PHOTO: Arturs Martinovs

BIOGRAPHY:

A strong competitor in singing competitions, Samanta won a local TV show that allowed her to attend a music school in London in 2010. In 2012, she was runner up in Slavianski Bazaar in Belarus, and in 2014, she finished in the top 8 of the Lithuanian series of The Voice. Most recently, in 2016, Samanta was among participants of the international contest of popular music New Wave.

Each time the singer has brought different songs to her competitions, but the one thing to remain consistent is her powerful vocal range. Samanta describes her voice as a god-given talent that needs to be heard on the big stage. Anyone lucky enough to witness her live performances would find it impossible to disagree.

Still Breathing offers a strong message of female empowerment and is an ode to women who are held to unrealistically high standards. They're meant to be beautiful at all times, while also being perfect mothers and devoted wives – all the while working to chase their dreams. It's about the relentlessness of the expectation to do it all and the ability still breathe despite the endless struggle. The song was co-produced by Samanta and seasoned Latvian musician, Arnis Račinskis. The lyrics were written by Eurovision 2015 finalist Aminata Savadogo, who represented Latvia with Love Injected.

For Samanta Tīna taking part in Eurovision is a dream come true; she wants to show Europe and the world that Latvia is not a small country to be underestimated. Her love of Eurovision runs deep: in 2019, the singer wrote her graduating paper based on an analysis of the national selections for the Eurovision Song Contest in Latvia and Lithuania.

LYRICS:

I will keep on going, I will keep on running
Run until I reach the end
Strong enough to take it, I am gonna make it
Destiny is in my hands

Thought I'll never get up, thought I'm gonna give up
Lost on my way, many times betrayed
But still breathing, I'm still breathing
Nothing to regret, never looking back

I will keep on going, I will keep on running
Run until I reach the end
Strong enough to take it, I am gonna make it
Destiny is in my hands

Lifelines go on
Let the life go on
I grow strong
So can I get strong
Lifelines go on
Let the life go on
But I grow strong

Every day I wake up, trying to get higher
Be a better woman, working even harder
I'm still breathing, I'm still breathing
Listening to my heart, ready for the start

I will keep on going, I will keep on running
Run until I reach the end
Strong enough to take it, I am gonna make it
Destiny is in my hands

Let the life go on
I grow strong
So can I get strong
Life lines go on
Let the life go on
But I grow strong

Reaching for the stars, I know I'm getting closer
Life is music, I am a composer
My dreams become so real with all the love I'm feeling
I'm still breathing, I'm still breathing

I will keep on going, I will keep on running
Run until I reach the end

I will keep on going, I will keep on running
Run until I reach the end
Lifelines

I will keep on going, I will keep on running
Run until I reach the end

Strong enough to take it, I am gonna make it
Destiny is in my hands

LITHUANIA

THE ROOP

ON FIRE

LYRICS: Vaidotas Valiukevičius
MUSIC: Vaidotas Valiukevičius, Robertas Baranauskas, Mantas Banišauskas

PHOTO: Jurga Urbonaite

BIOGRAPHY:

Although their debut single Be Mine was only released in 2014, the artists each have long histories in other music projects. The Roop shows are a mix of energy and feel. Listeners never remain indifferent and bravely get immersed in the musical storytelling of the band. Live shows are characterized as lively, honest and having a strong relationship with the audience. The Roop appeared in all of the largest Lithuania's music festival, such as Granatos Live, Karklė, Galapagai, as well as across the world.

The band's third and latest record – an EP entitled Yes, I Do – was released in May 2018, named after a song the group wrote for the Lithuanian national selection show for the Eurovision Song Contest. That year, their performance stood out, and they won the Lithuanian public's heart. The Roop's music has since been played in different countries all around the globe: in Lithuania, Belgium, Germany, France, Australia, Columbia, Romania, Serbia, Brazil, Portugal and the United States.

After their successful appearance in the 2018 Lithuanian national selection, The Roop was frequently asked about participating again. According to the band, those questions strengthened their decision to return to the competition. Two years after Yes, I Do, The Roop have introduced their brand-new Eurovision song, On Fire. "This year's song is about something I carried within and observed around myself. It's about writing yourself off too quickly. We are underestimating ourselves too often," said band leader Vaidotas Valiukevičius - Naive. According to the group, the name of the song On Fire means being in the state of excitement, feeling passionate, engaged and full of energy.

While talking to one music producer, Vaidotas learned that rather often people in their early twenties come to producers but declare feeling too old to achieve something. The singer believes that the youth cult is too big and inadequate. "People in their thirties already feel untimely aged and hopeless. I believe this is not normal. I faced such thoughts myself, but I strived to change my approach to things, put more energy into my activities than I did when I was 20. With this song, I wish to send my listeners confidence and good vibes. We are all capable of being who we want when we want, and age is not important." The vibrant music video for On Fire was produced by director Indrė Juškutė and cinematographer Adomas Jablonskis.

LYRICS:

I'm a human not a stone
I can make a change and go
Wherever I want to.

They told me maybe I'm too old.
But there's fire in my soul.

The heat is getting higher
I feel that I'm on fire
The World is my desire
I feel that I'm on fire

There's no doubt I'm strong enough
To reach the state I've dreamed of.
It's gonna happen.

And I will do what I can
Just to be a better man.

The heat is getting higher
I feel that I'm on fire
The world is my desire
I feel that I'm on fire

Can't believe it took so long
To take action and move on.
No one can stop me.

Through the clouds there comes the sun.
And I'm ready for some fun.

The heat is getting higher
I feel that I'm on fire
The world is my desire
I feel that I'm on fire

MALTA

DESTINY

ALL OF MY LOVE

MUSIC & LYRICS: Bernarda Brunovic, Borislav Milanov, Sebastian Arman, Dag Lundberg, Joacim Persson, Cesár Sampson

PHOTO: Marin Babanov

BIOGRAPHY:

Destiny is 17-years-old and currently lives on the tiny island of Malta. From a tender age, she participated in several singing competitions, where she succeeded triumphantly and was frequently referred to as a child prodigy.

In 2015, Destiny was selected to represent Malta in the Junior Eurovision Song Contest in Bulgaria where she ended up winning with a record of 185 points. She was invited as a guest at the Eurovision Grand Final in 2016. As she grew older, her soulful voice developed even further making her the powerhouse she is today. She has been compared to legends such as Aretha Franklin who happens to be one of Destiny's music idols.

Her most recent international success included singing in front of music mogul Simon Cowell when she auditioned for Britain's Got Talent. Destiny secured her spot at the live shows out of thousands of applicants and gave viewers a taste of the magic behind her voice. At home, she recently participated in the X Factor Malta Season 2. Mentored by Ira Losco, she reached the finals and was crowned the winner. Her performances were shared numerous times on X Factor Global. Being signed to a record company and artist management, she is now one step closer to having her dream come true.

LYRICS:

Never had the heart to pray
Never thought I'd find the way
But now I do
But now I do

Always felt I was no good
Always felt misunderstood
But now I don't
But now I don't

Cus your great love is healing me
Renewing me through and through
I am free to live so I give you

All of my love
Like a river runnin' wild
Every brother mother child
Now we found each other don't let me down

All my love
Like a river runnin' wild
Every brother mother child
Now we found each other don't let me down
All my love

All the love I feel for youu
All of my love
All the love I feel for you yeaahh

Now I know your words are true
My heart is filled with gratitude
It's only you, I'm living for
You're amazing love so sweet
Has raised me to my feet
I ain't going back anymore

Now I sing about you dream about you
All the time
Don't wanna live without you so I give you

Now I sing about you dream about you
All the time
Don't wanna live without you so I give you

All of my love
Like a river runnin' wild
Every brother mother child
Now we found each other don't let me down

All my love
Like a river runnin' wild
Every brother mother child
Now we found each other don't let me down
All my love

All the love I feel for youu
All of my love
All the love I feel for you yeaahh

All the love I feel for youu
All of my love
All the love I feel for you yeaahh

MOLDOVA

NATALIA GORDIENKO

PRISON

LYRICS: Sharon Vaughn
MUSIC: Dimitris Kontopoulos, Phillip Kirkorov

PHOTO: NG

BIOGRAPHY:

Natalia Gordienko was born on 11 December 1987 in Chisinau. She has been performing on the big stage since the age of 15.

While still being a student at the Academy of Music, Theater and Fine Arts, Natalia participated in the Eurovision Song Contest held in Athens in 2006. The same year she won Slavianski Bazaar and became the most famous singer in the country. In 2007, she received the Grand Prix at the New Wave competition in Jurmala. She then represented her country at the World Championships of Performing Arts in Los Angeles where she won the gold medal in the Voice Category. In addition, Natalia was awarded the title Honored Artist of the Republic of Moldova.

Natalia has recorded 3 solo albums and featured duets with well-known Moldovan, European and Russian artists such as Irakli Pirtskhalava, Mohombi and CRBL. Moreover, her videos were shot by famous Directors from Ukraine, Russia and Romania, which have more than a million views on YouTube. She eventually collaborated with one of the largest Romanian labels, Fly Records.

Natalia has experienced 2 large solo concerts on the largest concert venue in Moldova and is now actively touring around the world. She is also the host of the highest-rated TV show in Moldova and is a DJ. During the Moldovan national selection in February 2020, both the jury and the viewers unanimously chose Natalia Gordienko as representative of Moldova at the Eurovision Song Contest 2020 with the song Prison.

LYRICS:

I don't want to feel you
I don't want to feel you this close
I don't want to hold you
Do I want hold or let go
I don't want to fight the night
Inside with you

I'm surrounded by walls
Covered with all your memories
Wish this were solitary no
Walking with me in the halls
So there is no forgetting
I know you'll never let me

I don't want to be with you
I don't want to be without you
I don't want to be with you
I don't want to be without you

Prison
I can't escape from this
Prison
Love is a fo-ol's prison

I don't want to need you
I don't want to seem so desperate
I don't want tell you
I don't want to hear it's useless
I don't want to fight the night
Inside with you

I'm surrounded by walls
Covered with all your memories
Wish this were solitary

I don't want to be with you
I don't want to be without you
I don't want to be with you
I don't want to be without you

Prison
I can't escape from this
Prison
Love is a fo-ol's prison

Prison
I can't escape from this
Prison
Love is a fo-ol's prison

NORTH MACEDONIA

VASIL

YOU

LYRICS: Nevena Neskoska, Kalina Neskoska, Alice Schroeder
MUSIC: Nevena Neskoska

PHOTO: Bojan Stoilkovski

BIOGRAPHY:

From child pop star to over 50 operatic roles and recitals at music festivals across the world and collaborations with some of the world's most prolific artists, Vasil's motto in life is simple: wherever words fail, sing.

Vasil Garvanliev started his musical journey at age 7, performing at some of North Macedonia's most popular children's festivals. Soon thereafter, he moved with his family to the United States, where he continued his career as a soloist at the Chicago Children's Choir.

Since his return to North Macedonia in 2018, Vasil has released 3 highly successful singles: Gjerdan (Necklace), "Patuvam (Travelling) and Mojata Ulica (My Street). His first solo concert in his native Strumica in November 2019 was sold out and showcased his vast musical experience from across the world.

About performing at this year's Eurovision Song Contest, Vasil says it is a dream come true. "I am beyond honoured to present my country at the Song Contest in Rotterdam and I can hardly wait to put all my experience and knowledge into creating a magical journey that will touch people's heart across Europe."

LYRICS:

Hand on my hand
Fingertips trembling
This feeling I can't understand

Your eyes sing to me
Pulling me closer
And closer with sweet melodies

Sing it to me
Sing it to me

Oh,
We might only have tonight
Hold me tight and let's ignite
And for the moment I

I just wanna dance with you
tonight I wanna
I just wanna dance with you
You know you wanna

My lips find yours
And just like a muse you're taking over me
I like it. I want more.

Sing it to me
Sing it to me

Oh,
We might only have tonight
Hold me tight and let's ignite
And for the moment I

I just wanna dance with you
tonight I wanna
I just wanna dance with you
You know you wanna

NORWAY

ULRIKKE

ATTENTION

LYRICS: Kjetil Mørland, Christian Ingebrigtsen, Ulrikke Brandstorp
MUSIC: Kjetil Mørland, Christian Ingebrigtsen, Ulrikke Brandstorp

PHOTO: Julia Marie Naglestad/NRK

BIOGRAPHY:

Ulrikke Brandstorp (24) from Sarpsborg became well known to the Norwegian public when she came second in the TV show Stjernekamp (NRK) in 2018.

Later, she has been featured at Addresse: Tel Aviv (a show about Eurovision), the charity show Håp i ei gryte and Idrettsgallaen where she paid tribute to ski athletes Marit Bjørgen and Ole Einar Bjørndalen with an emotional performance.

Ulrikke is known to fans of MGP as she participated in 2017 and made it to the Gold Final with the song Places. Throughout the fall of 2019 and until March 2020, Ulrikke can be seen performing at Folketeateret in Oslo. She plays Liesl, who is one of the lead roles in Sound of Music.

LYRICS:

I find myself longing for attention.
I'm not myself doing what I do.
I know I may have hurt someone I love along the way, it wasn't my intention.
I lost myself doing what I do.

I, just want your attention.
Oh, the crazy things I do.

So why, why do I think it's okay,
not being me 'cause of you?
And what do you want me to say?
What do you want me to do,
To get your attention?
'Cause I just want your attention.

I fool myself just to make you happy.
And when I do, it's all the same to you.

Oh, the crazy things I do.

So why, why do I think it's okay,
not being me 'cause of you?
And what do you want me to say?
What do you want me to do,
To get your attention?

Oh, I don't wanna do this no more
If I'm the only one here on the dance floor
On the dance floor,
Oh.....!

Why?
Why do I think it's okay,
not being me 'cause of you?
And what do you want me to say?
What do you want me to do,
To get your attention?
'Cause I just want your attention

POLAND

ALICJA

EMPIRES

LYRICS: Patryk Kumor, Dominic Buczkowski-Wojtaszek, Laurell Barker, Frazer Mac
MUSIC: Patryk Kumor, Dominic Buczkowski-Wojtaszek, Laurell Barker, Frazer Mac

PHOTO: Dawid Ziemba

BIOGRAPHY:

17-year-old Alicja Szemplińska was born and raised in Ciechanów, near Warsaw. She won The Voice of Poland 2019 and was loved by the audience for her voice and unique performances of songs we all know and love. "R&B and Soul have always been by my side. I grew up with this music and always enjoyed it the most."

Alicja, like every teenager, has big dreams. She also dares to fulfil them. At the age of 14, after winning a TV music program, Alicja met with Michael Jackson's vocal trainer, Seth Riggs, who helped her develop her voice. In her spare time, Alicja fills her notebook with verses and rhymes with the hopes that they will see the light of the world very soon. She collaborated with Neve from the UK on her first single Almost We, which resulted in millions of views online.

Alicja sees Empires as an important song in terms of how we treat planet Earth and life itself. "We are a threat to the planet. The song tells about the mechanism of destruction and difficult issues in our present world. People tend to build empires, and they become blind to what is important. They become obsessed, and it provides them to distraction. But there is hope because we rise and fall; it is the circle of life, but the question remains, why? Do we have to repeat the same scenario all the time? We build and destroy…maybe we should learn."

LYRICS:

Ashes to ashes dust into dust
I'll follow you through black
Try to forgive that I'm not awake
I'm dreaming this dream could last

No looking down
There's fool's gold in our eyes

Burning an empire
Happens so easy
Playing with fire
Maybe it's you and me
Burning an empire
Is it our fault we
Rise and fall

Like moth to a flame
Like birds to a pane of glass
Hoping for change but we do the same
We're gasoline and a match

No looking down
There's fool's gold in our eyes

Burning an empire
Happens so easy
Playing with fire
Maybe it's you and me
Burning an empire
Is it our fault we
Rise and fall

We just want it all
Used to be a tower so tall
Now we're holding up, crumbling walls

We rise and fall
Moth to a flame as we do the same
Like a bird to a pane of glass

Burning an empire
Happens so easy
Playing with fire
Maybe it's you and me
Burning an empire
Is it our fault we
Rise and fall

PORTUGAL

ELISA

MEDO DE SENTIR

LYRICS: Marta Carvalho
MUSIC: Marta Carvalho

PHOTO: André Madeira

BIOGRAPHY:

Elisa was born in 1999 on the island of Madeira and started singing at the early age of 7. From her childhood, she remembers her father playing records from the great classics like The Beatles, Ray Charles, Queen, ABBA and The Eagles, among others.

From an early age, she took a particular interest in music from the 60s, 70s and 80s. Elisa has participated in several regional festivals and, at the age of 13, joined some musical projects and started to perform around the island. Her love for jazz music appeared at 17 years old, leading her to study jazz at the Conservatório da Madeira.

In 2018, she moved to Lisbon to continue her studies and, there, began to compose her own songs. Today, she is studying at the Music Academy of Lisbon, and she has joined the Great Dane Studios. Meanwhile, she was invited by Marta Carvalho to be the singer of her song Medo de Sentir (Fear of Feeling) for Festival da Canção 2020. In February 2020, Elisa signed a record deal with Warner Music Portugal and anticipates the release of her original songs soon.

LYRICS:

Qual é a saída
Eu acho que já não sei amar
E se o amor me convida
Agora não consigo aceitar
Parece que é rotina
A minha solidão teima em voltar

Eu não era assim
Mas agora tenho medo de sentir
Pergunta ao tempo, ele sabe tudo sobre mim
Pergunta ao tempo, ele sabe tudo sobre mim

Se me dás a tua mão
Eu não sei como vou reagir
Se falas de coração
Parece que estou outra vez a ouvir
Mais uma ilusão
Que não tarda muito em partir

Eu não era assim
Mas agora tenho medo de sentir
Pergunta ao tempo, ele sabe tudo sobre mim
Pergunta ao tempo, ele sabe tudo sobre mim
O que ele guarda, diz tudo o que eu sinto por ti

Eu já tentei mudar
Mas a vida levou
O melhor que eu tinha em mim
E se um dia eu voltar
Esperarás por mim?

Eu não era assim
Mas agora tenho medo de sentir
Pergunta ao tempo, ele sabe tudo sobre mim
Pergunta ao tempo, ele sabe tudo sobre mim
O que ele guarda, diz tudo o que eu sinto por ti

ROMANIA

ROXEN

ALCOHOL YOU

LYRICS: Ionuț Armaș, Breyan Isaac
MUSIC: Ionuț Armaș, Viky Red

PHOTO: Ștefan Dacian Foldi

BIOGRAPHY:

ROXEN became the country's representative via a songwriting camp that public broadcaster TVR organized in collaboration with the music label Global Records.

At a young age, ROXEN already knew that music meant the world to her. She started singing at the age of 7 and won several musical competitions throughout the years.

Right now, ROXEN is the 3rd most-played artist on Romanian radio and has 2 songs in the radio charts: You Don't Love Me (which has 8 million views on YouTube) and Ce-ti Canta Dragostea (9 million views and the most-Shazamed Romanian song).

ROXEN's song, Alcohol You, is written by Breyan Isaac, Ionut Armas and Viky Red.

LYRICS:

The sun is rising ink
For me its hard to blink
I'm falling
I wrote some stupid words
Before I lost my mind
And called you
A taste of bittersweet
to chase the memories
Blue heaven
I need you but it hurts
to feel like I deserve
your weapons

Why do fairytales fail baby
Mumbling in the dark to save me
Love you from the bottom of my...

Alcohol you when I'm drunk
I do it 'cause you're not around
This pain's the only thing that I can't refuse
They warned me but I think it's only fake news

I will "cohol" you when I'm drunk

If you're the enemy
then maybe I'm too weak to see it
The fire's in my chest
But I won't let my head
believe it
If this is just a dream
Don't wake me in between
I mean it
You lied so many times
but right between the lines
I read it

Why do fairytales fail baby
Mumbling in the dark to save me
Love you from the bottom of my...

Alcohol you when I'm drunk
I do it 'cause you're not around
This pain's the only thing that I can't refuse
They warned me but I think it's only fake news
I will "cohol" you when I'm drunk
I'll "cohol" you when I'm drunk
I will call you when I'm... strong

RUSSIA

LITTLE BIG

UNO

LYRICS: Little Big
MUSIC: Little Big

PHOTO: Ilia Prusikin

BIOGRAPHY:

Punk-pop-rave group Little Big was formed on 1 April, 2013. The collective consists of 4 members – Ilia Prusikin (frontman), Sonya Tayurskaya (frontwoman), Anton Lissov (MC) and Sergey Makarov (DJ).

The band's debut album, *With Russia From Love*, was released in 2014. The group now has more than 20 music videos in its arsenal and, in 2019, their YouTube channel reached 1 billion views.

Little Big are prizewinners of lots of international award shows, like the Berlin Music Awards, Global Film Festival Awards, Het Gala van de Gouden K's and others. The band dropped their second album, Antipositive, in 2018 with Skibidi as the first single. In one day, the music video got more than 23 millions of views and now has more than 360 million. The dance from the video became the most viral meme in Russia: the #SkibidiChallenge has been supported by many famous TV stars, popular artists and influencers. In the summer of 2019, the band released the new single, I'm OK, which went viral in TikTok.

In March, Channel One (RU) announced that Little Big would represent Russia at the Eurovision Song Contest 2020 with Uno. The musicians came up with the idea for the song in February during a vacation with the whole crew. After they returned to Saint-Petersburg, they finished the work on the track.

LYRICS:

It's gonna take more than one margarita
I'm gonna call you my sweet señorita
I'm gonna leave after night only with ya
All you have to do is to be ready for some action now

Don't be a dummy dummy
I got dat yummy yummy
Can we be chummy chummy
Right after midnight

Yeah you so charming bunny
Yeah you so funny honey
All you have to do is to be ready for some action now

Uno
Dos
Cuatro
Uno uno

All you have to do is to be ready for some action now

Are you ready
Hold it steady
Start already
All you have to do is to be ready for some action now

Don't be a dummy dummy
I got dat yummy yummy
Can we be chummy chummy
Right after midnight

The night is charming bunny
You are so funny honey
All you have to do is to be ready for some action now

Uno
Dos
Cuatro
Uno uno

Uno Dos Tres Cuatro Cinco Seis

Uno
Dos
Cuatro
Uno uno

SAN MARINO

SENHIT

FREAKY!

LYRICS: Gianluigi Fazio, Henrik Steen, Nanna Bottos
MUSIC: Gianluigi Fazio, Henrik Steen, Nanna Bottos

PHOTO: Panini S.p.A.

BIOGRAPHY:

Senhit, then Senit, was the Sammarinese representative in the Eurovision Song Contest 2011 in Düsseldorf.

Senit Zadik has Eritrean origin, was born in Bologna and grew up between the Italian city and San Marino. Her artistic debut took place in Switzerland with the musical Fame (1999-2000), under the direction of Andreas Koeneche, and she soon extended her collaborations to include prestigious authors such as Massimo Ranieri. The 2001-2002 season saw her as the protagonist of the musical that celebrated her success in Germany as the lead role of Nala in The Lion King signed by the Walt Disney Studio under the direction of Julie Taymor.

In May 2006, Senhit made her debut in the world of Italian discography with an album that took her name, SENIT. The album, under the direction of Gaetano Curreri and Saverio Grandi, sold thousands of copies. In November 2009, Senhit had her tv debut as a TV personality. She became the presenter in the programme Urban Charts on HIPHOPTV, a daily appointment, during which Senhit acted as a VJ resident. Recently, Senhit has been releasing new Italian singles and performing them in clubs across Europe and the United States. International producers such as Brian Higgins and Busbee have collaborated on her songs.

LYRICS:

So when you touch me
I feel your love all over my body
You make me feel like I'm spinning
From the way that you want me

Put on a show
Cuckoo completely
Some people think our love is freaky, freaky, freaky
They say we're cray
And must be faking
But you and I we like it freaky, freaky, freaky

Drinks on rooftops and kiss in the dark
Dance around late at night in the park

Sparkle it up
Dressing in colours
Cuz life is good when we're freaky, freaky, freaky

So when you touch me
I feel your love all over my body
You make me feel like I'm spinning
From the way that you want me

Yeah we wanna break all the rules
And make up some new
Then we'll destroy all of them too
Cause that's what we do, oh yeah
And life goes by too quickly now
Not be freakin' it up, freakin' it up
(Freaky, freaky, freaky)

Drinks on rooftops and kiss in the dark
Dance around late at night in the park

Sparkle it up
Dressing in colours
Cuz life is good when we're freaky, freaky, freaky

They say we're cray
And must be faking
But you and I we like it freaky, freaky, freaky
Sparkle it up
Dressing in colours
Cuz life is good when we're freaky, freaky, freaky
Yeah we wanna break all the rules
And make up some new
Then we'll destroy all of them too
Cause that's what we do, oh yeah
And life goes by too quickly now
Not be freakin' it up, freakin' it up
(Freaky, freaky, freaky)

Break all the rules
And make up some new
Then we'll destroy all of them too
Cause that's what we do, oh yeah
And life goes by too quickly now
Not be freakin' it up, freakin' it up
(Freaky, freaky, freaky)

They say we're cray
and must be faking
But you and I we like it freaky, freaky, freaky
Sparkle it up
Dressing in colours
Cuz life is good when we're freaky, freaky, freaky
Freaky freaky...

SERBIA

HURRICANE

HASTA LA VISTA

LYRICS: Kosana Stojić, Sanja Vučić
MUSIC: Nemanja Antonić

PHOTO: Miomir Milić

BIOGRAPHY:

The trio has released 7 songs in English, and in 2019, they released their first single in the Serbian language titled Favorito. The song was very successful in the Serbian music scene, confirmed by the 30 million views on their official YouTube channel. Hurricane is currently in Los Angeles, working on 2 songs for the US market and an album for the Serbian market which is expected to be released in 2020.

Sanja Vučić was born on 8 August, 1993, in Kruševac, Serbia. She finished secondary music school in Kruševac in the Department of Solo Singing. She is currently in her final year of studies at the Faculty of Philology in Belgrade; Department of Oriental Languages, Literatures and Cultures. She also speaks Spanish, Portuguese and Italian, and holds 2 certificates from the British Council for English language proficiency. Sanja was a member of the church choir Knez Lazar, an ensemble performing Ethno music called Bele vile, and member of a reggae/jazz/ska/punk fusion band called ZAA. At the Eurovision Song Contest 2016, she represented Serbia with the song Goodbye, where she came 18th in the Grand Final.

Ivana Nikolić was born on 16 April, 1995, in Niš, Serbia. She studies at the Union University in Belgrade, Department of Business Economy, and at the Faculty of Economics in Niš. At the age of 14, she joined a dance school called Boom 018 in Niš, where she continued to dance for the next 6 years. During her dance education, she participated in national and European competitions where she won numerous awards, becoming a multiple-time dance champion.

Ksenija Knežević was born on 24 January, 1996, in Belgrade, Serbia. She finished Dr Vojislav Vučković Music School as part of the Piano Department. She is currently in her final year of studies at the Faculty of Media and Communications in Belgrade, Singidunum University, in the Department of Digital Marketing. She has participated in numerous festivals, such as Niški susreti, Čarolija and Beovizija. In 2015, she started singing as a backing vocalist at festivals and concerts.

LYRICS:

Jedan, dva, tri i kraj
Odbrojano je znaj
Ruke u vis na moj znak
Opet si sa njom
Opet, opet si sa njom
Zbog tebe nemam sna
Tisina ubija
Ostacemo ti i ja
Praznih pogleda
Ti bez srca, ja bez sna

Mada ponekad sam malo crazy
Al sa mnom nikad nije dosadno u vezi
A ti uvek biras pogresnu sebi
Sada ljubavi uzmi ili ostavi

Hasta la vista, baby
Imam novi plan, imam imam novi plan
Hasta la vista, baby
Jasno kao dan, jasno jasno kao dan
Kazi mi hvala sto sam te volela
Na tebe takvog pala
Ma, sorry sto nisam ti se dopala
Hasta la vista, baby

Jedan, dva, tri i kraj
Odbrojano je znaj
Ruke u vis na moj znak
Opet si sa njom, opet opet si sa njom
Zbog tebe nemam sna
Tisina ubija
Nije ovo sujeta
U ljubavi to je cute but psycho

O da, milom ili silom zelim da dam ti se
Pa nek obrne se sve
Ti i ja na obodima ludila
Kad sviram kraj, kad sviram kraj, a yeah

Hasta la vista, baby
Imam, imam novi plan
Hasta la vista, baby
Hasta la, hasta la vista baby (baby, ouah)
Hasta la vista, baby

SLOVENIA

ANA SOKLIČ

VODA

LYRICS: Ana Soklič
MUSIC: Ana Soklič, Bojan Simončič, Žiga Pirnat

PHOTO: Bojan Simončič

BIOGRAPHY:

Ana Soklič started her music career early; as a young person, she studied with Alenka Dernač Bunta, a solo opera teacher, the acclaimed Slovenian musician Darja Švajger (two-time Slovenian representative at the Eurovision Song Contest) and singing coach Nataša Nahtigal.

In 2018, Ana undertook further vocal training with Dileesa Archer (a professional in soul, gospel, R&B) in the United States. At 18, she set foot on her path as a songwriter as well.

Ana competed twice at EMA, the Slovenian national selection for the Eurovision Song Contest, and 3 times at the Slovenian Song Festival, where, in 2019, she won 2 jury awards for best interpretation and best song overall. She often performs her songs with symphony orchestras at festivals and on television. In 2014, Ana performed a sold-out solo concert at the Veneto Jazz Festival in Venice, which also hosted names like Keith Jarrett, Cassandra Wilson and Chick Corea. In 2017, she sang in Dubai, Naples and Monaco, and performed with a symphony orchestra at the Lignano Sabbiadoro amphitheatre.

She has performed with the RTV Slovenia Symphony Orchestra and often sings with smaller ensembles, as well. These are her favourite concerts because she feels the connection with the audience is at its most genuine and intimate. She covers songs by the great names of jazz, soul and blues; music that has a story to tell, but also enjoys performing pop music and the way it allows for an engaged interpretation of the lyrics. As a songwriter, she wants to take people to unexpected places, since this is, as she says, “the true freedom of expression”. For Ana, music is a way of life.

LYRICS:

Greva naprej, v novi čas,
zbeživa od tu, daleč stran.
Ne ustavljajva se prav nikjer,
dolga bo noč.

Ti slišiš, ko mi bije razum,
ti kot nomad dobro veš,
da od besed do dejanj,
najdaljša je pot.

Voda!
Med nevihto obležim v tebi do konca ...
Voda drvi ...
A ne zmore v naju dva.

Peljiva naprej, v drugo smer,
dalj od luči, prepričanj.
Tam je strgan stol, ki stoji ...
In čaka nekoga,
čaka otroka.

Voda!
Med nevihto obležim v tebi do konca ...
Voda ...
A ne zmore v naju dva.

Se poraja in odzvanja,
korenina, moj nemir brez konca.

Voda drvi ...
A ne zmore v naju dva,
Ne, ne zmore v naju dva.

SPAIN

BLAS CANTÓ

UNIVERSO

LYRICS: Blas Cantó, Dan Hammond
MUSIC: Blas Cantó, Dan Hammond, Ash Hicklin, Mikolaj Trybulec, Dangelo Ortega

PHOTO: Sergio Ramirez Delgado

BIOGRAPHY:

Blas Cantó, born 26 October 1991, is one of the most influential musicians in the Hispanic pop music scene at the moment. He is a versatile artist, a perfectionist and a performer who thrives in front of a live audience.

Blas currently has a hit solo album, Complicated, released in 2018. It is described as an intimate album that shows the personality of the young artist, mixing different genres of music to bring his signature sound to life.
Additionally, Blas was part of one of the most influential pop boy-bands in Spanish history, Auryn, with whom he released four albums and sold more than 14,000 copies. Blas won an award for best Spanish Artist at the MTV European Music Awards and has toured internationally.

At only 4 years old, Blas started going to music school where he learned to play the piano and the trumpet, although his favourite instrument was always his voice. Since he was a teenager, he dreamed of participating in the Eurovision Song Contest. In 2004, Blas was the runner up in Eurojunior, the Spanish selection show for the Junior Eurovision Song Contest. Years later, with Auryn, he tried for the first time to be selected to represent Spain at the Eurovision Song Contest 2011.

LYRICS:

Perdóname, perdóname
Uni/Universo
Perdóname, perdóname
Todo lo que escondo cuando tengo miedo
Se hace realidad dentro de este silencio
Uhh uhh uhh
Puedo ser como el viento
Uhh uhh uhh
Y desaparecer

Perdóname, perdóname
Uni/Universo
Perdóname, perdóname
Uni/Universo
Por apagar mi voz
Para evitar ser el culpable
De lo que soy
Perdóname
Uni/Universo

Tuve que escucharme cuando había tiempo, y no entiendo
Cómo me he perdido en un solo momento
Uhh uhh uhh
Dime dónde irán los sueños que me quedan
Uhh uhh uhh
Si no queda más espacio en mi cabeza

Perdóname, perdóname
Uni/Universo
Perdóname, perdóname
Uni/Universo

Por apagar mi voz
Para evitar ser el culpable
De lo que soy
Perdóname Uni/Universo

Ohh ohh Ohh ohh
Uni/Universo
Ohh ohh Ohh ohh
Uni/Universo

Uhh uhh uhh
Puedo ser como el viento
Uhh uhh uhh
Y desaparecer
Uhh Uhh Uhh

Puedo salir corriendo
Uhh Uhh Uhh
Y desaparecer

Perdóname, perdóname
Uni/Universo
Perdóname, perdóname
Uni/Univers
Por apagar mi voz
Para evitar ser el culpable
De lo que soy
Perdóname Uni/Universo

Ohh ohh Ohh ohh, Uni/Universo
Ohh ohh Ohh ohh, Uni/Universo

SWEDEN

THE MAMAS

MOVE

LYRICS: Herman Gardarfve, Melanie Wehbe, Patrik Jean
MUSIC: Herman Gardarfve, Melanie Wehbe, Patrik Jean

PHOTO: SVT

BIOGRAPHY:

The Mamas were formed as backing singers to John Lundvik's winning song 'Too Late for Love' in 2019. Since then they have become a powerful group in their own right.

The members of The Mamas are Loulou Lamotte, Ashley Haynes and Dinah Yonas Manna. Their entry Move is written by Melanie Wehbe, Patrik Jean and Herman Gardarfve. The Mamas are the 60th Swedish entry in the Eurovision Song Contest.

LYRICS:

We try we fight
We fall it's alright
That's life
oh life

We wipe those eyes
And then we rise
That's life
oohoo life

Even when the rain is falling
Even when you hit the bottom
I'll be there
I'll be there

'Cause there ain't no ocean
Deeper than my love for you
And there ain't no fire
That I wouldn't run right through

There ain't no mountain
Baby that I wouldn't move
Nothing that I wouldn't do for you
'Cause you do it for me too

Oho oho ho
Oho oho ho
Oho oho ho, Oh

'Cause you do it for me too
Oho oho ho

When highs turn low
I'll guide you home
That's right
damn right

Even when the rain is falling
Even when you hit the bottom
I'll be there
I'll be there

'Cause there ain't no ocean
Deeper than my love for you
And there ain't no fire
That I wouldn't run right through

There ain't no mountain
Baby that I wouldn't move
Nothing that I wouldn't do for you
'Cause you do it for me too

Oho oho ho
Oho oho ho
Oho oho ho, Oh

'Cause you do it for me too

Everybody wanna move like us
Everybody wanna move like us
Everybody wanna move like us
We're moving mountains

Everybody wanna move like us
Everybody wanna move like us
Everybody wanna move like us
We're moving mountains

'Cause there ain't no ocean
Deeper than my love for you
And there ain't no fire
That I wouldn't run right through

There ain't no mountain
Baby that I wouldn't move
Nothing that I wouldn't do for you
'Cause you do it for me too

Oho oho ho
Oho oho ho
Oho oho ho, Oh
We're moving mountains

Everybody wanna move like us
Everybody wanna move like us
Everybody wanna move like us

We're moving mountains

SWITZERLAND

GJON'S TEARS

RÉPONDEZ-MOI

LYRICS: Gjon Muharremaj, Alizé Oswald, Xavier Michel, Jeroen Swinnen
MUSIC: Gjon Muharremaj, Alizé Oswald, Xavier Michel, Jeroen Swinnen

PHOTO: SRF/Lukas Mäder

BIOGRAPHY:

Gjon's Tears, born Gjon Muharremaj, has dedicated his heart and soul to music since he was a child. Moving his grandfather to tears with his rendition of Elvis Presley's "Can't Help Falling in Love" as a nine-year-old was a formative experience. The artist's name is also derived from this experience: Gjon's Tears. "Whether it's joy, sadness or melancholy – I want to touch people with my music in every possible way."

21-year-old musician Gjon's Tears was selected by a 100-member audience panel and an international jury comprising 20 music experts after submitting his song in an open call for entries. The panel and jury each carried 50% of the decision.

Gjon's grandfather, who has Albanian roots, was so moved by his grandson's voice that he registered him Albania's Got Talent on the spot in 2011. The then 12-year-old came third in the contest. A year later, he reached the semi-finals in the Swiss equivalent Switzerland's Got Talent and continued streak into the semi-finals in the French talent show The Voice France in 2019.

Gjon loves art in all its forms. He has a deep admiration for cinema, is passionate about theatre and loves to draw inspiration from museums and art galleries. As music has always been his top priority, he is excited about his preparations for this year's Contest: "The ESC is the biggest music event and it is huge for an artist to be a part of it. True to this year's slogan – 'Open up' – I am totally open to this unique adventure and I'm looking forward to everything that comes with it! "He continues: "I want to give my everything at the Eurovision Song Contest and I want to be proud of who I am, where I come from and what I have achieved. I want to inspire people to follow their own path with 'Répondez-moi'."

LYRICS:

Pourquoi la pluie
Et les nuages aussi
Et les nuages aussi
Pourquoi le soir
Tu t'endors dans mon lit
Tu t'endors dans mon lit
Pourquoi on dort
Si loin de la famille
Dans un autre pays
Pourquoi la mort
Vient après la vie

J'donne ma langue au chat
Répondez-moi
Pas de langue de bois
Répondez-moi

Pourquoi on court
Sans jamais s'arrêter
Sans jamais s'arrêter
Pourquoi on prie
Chacun de son côté
Chacun de son côté
Pourquoi je suis
Ici étranger
Là-bas étranger
Pourquoi mon fils
Grandira sans été
Grandira sans été

J'donne ma langue au chat
Répondez-moi
Pas de langue de bois
Répondez-moi

J'donne ma langue au chat
Répondez-moi

J'donne ma langue au chat
Répondez-moi
Pas de langue de bois
Répondez-moi

THE NETHERLANDS

JEANGU MACROOY

GROW

LYRICS: J.A.U. Macrooy
MUSIC: J.A.U. Macrooy, P.L. Perquin

PHOTO: ANTON CORBIJN

BIOGRAPHY:

Jeangu Macrooy was born in 1993 in Paramaribo, Suriname. The seeds to Jeangu's journey were planted when he received a guitar as a 13th birthday present from his parents.

Jeangu's musical ambition turned out to be bigger than the music scene in his native Suriname, leading to his move to the Netherlands in 2014. There he met producer and composer Perquisite who signed him to his label, Unexpected Records. From that moment, Jeangu's career in the Dutch music industry was on the fast track. He has since played several big Dutch festivals, is a recurring guest in TV shows and has been nominated twice for an Edison Award, the Dutch equivalent to the American Grammy Awards.

Jeangu is delighted to represent the Netherlands at the Eurovision Song Contest: "I am indescribably honoured! It's a dream come true and the most beautiful thing that has come my way so far. My team and I are excited to make the Netherlands proud! Let's go!"

LYRICS:

When I'm sad
I am unreasonable
Just like a little kid
Mad at the world

When I'm alone
I am defenceless
Just like the boy I was
Afraid in the dark

Don't take it personally
Don't be offended
Don't mind my mood
Changing like the weather
God knows I try to hold it all together
Oh, I'm getting older
And it ain't what I thought it would be

Wide awake
The planet spins around
A little too fast for me
Most of the time

Lost control
My thoughts are flickering
Just like satellites
Lost in the sky

Don't take it personally
Don't be offended
Don't mind my mood
Changing like the weather
God knows I try to hold it all together
I'm getting older
And it ain't what I thought it would be

One day I'll find
Some peace of mind
And then I'll stop being afraid
I won't make it through the night

The more I learn
The less I know
Through every high and every low
Oh, I grow

The more I learn
The less I know
Through every high and every low
Oh, I grow

UKRAINE

GO_A

SOLOVEY

LYRICS: Kateryna Pavlenko
MUSIC: Taras Shevchenko, Kateryna Pavlenko

PHOTO: UA:PBC

BIOGRAPHY:

The story of the band started in 2012 when the sound producer Taras Shevchenko met signer Kateryna Pavlenko. After recording several songs together, they realized that Ukrainian folklore and electronic music are a perfect match, combing energy and emotion into an engaging mix. Today, Go_A consists of the lead singer Kateryna Pavlenko and musicians Taras Shevchenko, Ihor Didenchuk and Ivan Hryhoriak.

Kateryna Pavlenko leads the ethnic component of the band: she has studied folklore most of her life. Kateryna can sing with the so-called 'white voice', an authentic folklore technique, and has a command of a significant vocal range. Today Kateryna is a veteran choir director while she writes songs for Go_A, including the Eurovision entry Solovey, and works on her solo project.

Taras Shevchenko is a keyboard and percussion player and the sound producer of Go_A. He works in various music styles and knows how to harmonize completely different things, such as Ukrainian sopilka and Brazilian drums, or the bandura, heavy guitar riffs and drum 'n bass.

Ihor Didenchuk is a folklorist and unique multi-instrumentalist whose rich musical arsenal includes traditional Ukrainian instruments as the sopilka, frilka, floyara, telynka, trembita and drymba. Ihor is also a member of a rap group.

Ivan Hryhoriak grew up in the Carpathians. He has been playing the guitar since he was 12. Ivan has been experimenting with musical styles and sounds, including acoustics (fingerstyle), prog metal (bass guitar), double bass in a folk orchestra, and electric guitar. Ivan also works as a vocal coach in a school.

In 2016, Go_A were the winners of the contest The Best Track In Ukraine. Their song Vesnianka was immediately placed in radio rotation and topped the dance chart for 6 weeks. Consequently, they were nominated for the title of KissFM Discovery of the Year. In 2019, the song entered Top 10 iTunes Dance chart in Slovakia as well.

LYRICS:

Oy hodyla ya v dolynu
Po chervonuyu kalynu
Oy hodyla ya v dolynu
Po chervonuyu kalynu
Nazbyrala kvitochok
Zaplitala v vinochok, Zaplitala v vinochok
Rutu i barvinochok
A do mene Vanyusha
Iz-za hayu pospisha
A do mene Vanyusha
Ty Katrusia horosha
Myla moya Katrusia
Ya z toboyu lyublyusia, Ya z toboyu lyublyusia
Poky ne zna matusia

Solovey solovey ne spivay ranenko
A meni na serdenku znov ne veselenko
Solovey solovey oy yak meni buty
Vmila yoho polyubyty ne vmila zabuty

Yakby ya toho ne znala
Ya b z toboyu ne huliala
Ne hodyla v dolynu
Ne lamala b kalynu
Ya z toboyu lyublyusia
Poky ne zna matusia
A yak uzna matusia to roziydemosia

Ne spivay ranenko
Shchos ne veselenko
Oy yak meni buty

Solovey solovey ne spivay ranenko
A meni na serdenku znov ne veselenko
Solovey solovey oy yak meni buty
Vmila yoho polyubyty ne vmila zabuty
Solovey solovey ne spivay ranenko
Bo meni na serdenku znov ne veselenko
Solovey solovey oy yak meni buty
Vmila yoho polyubyty ne vmila zabuty

UNITED KINGDOM

JAMES NEWMAN

MY LAST BREATH

LYRICS: James Newman, Adam Argyle, Ed Drewett, Iain James
MUSIC: James Newman, Adam Argyle, Ed Drewett, Iain James

PHOTO: BBC

BIOGRAPHY:

James Newman is a multi-platinum selling, BRIT award-winning and Grammy-nominated songwriter, having won a BRIT for British Single of the Year for 'Waiting All Night' performed by Rudimental and Ella Eyre. It was James' first UK Number 1 single in 2013.

It wasn't long before he was able to co-write another UK Number 1, this time for Calvin Harris and his younger brother John Newman called Blame. The song topped the charts in several countries including the Netherlands, Sweden, Norway and Mexico. James has worked with many famous artists over the years, including good friend Ed Sheeran who recorded the vocals on his track Lay It All On Me which was certified platinum in both the UK and the US. James has also been Grammy-nominated twice, co-writing Coping from Toni Braxton's album Sex & Cigarettes, and Let 'Em Talk from Kesha's album Rainbow.

James has been a featured vocalist on many successful songs – his biggest hit came in 2018 when he collaborated with acclaimed Dutch DJ Armin Van Buuren. Their song Therapy was a big hit in Europe and reached number 4 on the Dutch Top 40 chart.

LYRICS:

Some people let go
Some people let love slip away

But I'm gonna hold on
When no one believes I'll keep the faith

And I know that we're in trouble
But I swear that we'll survive

If we were deep sea divers
And no one came to find us
If you had nothing left
I'd give you my last breath
I'd give you my last breath

We all need a lifeline
Someone to call when we're alone

It's all good in the good times
But I'll still be there when it all goes wrong, yes I will

If we were deep sea divers
And no one came to find us
If you had nothing left
I'd give you my last breath
I'd give you my last breath

And I know that we're in trouble,
But I swear that we'll survive

If we were deep sea divers
And no one came to find us
If you had nothing left
I'd give you my last breath

I'd give you my last breath
I'd give you my last breath

FIRST SEMI-FINAL

May 12th, 2020

North Macedonia	Vasil	*YOU*
Belarus	VAL	*Da Vidna*
Lithuania	The Roop	*On Fire*
Sweden	The Mamas	*Move*
Slovenia	Ana Soklič	*Voda*
Australia	Montaigne	*Don't Break Me*
Ireland	Lesley Roy	*Story Of My Life*
Russia	Little Big	*Uno*
Norway	Ulrikke	*Attention*
Cyprus	Sandro	*Running*
Croatia	Damir Kedžo	*Divlji Vjetre*
Azerbaijan	Efendi	*Cleopatra*
Malta	Destiny	*All Of My Love*
Israel	Eden Alene	*Feker Libi*
Ukraine	Go_A	*Solovey*
Romania	ROXEN	*Alcohol You*
Belgium	Hooverphonic	*Release Me*

ONLY VOTING

Germany **Italy** **The Netherlands**

FIRST SEMI-FINAL SCOREBOARD

Country	Performer(s)	Song

SECOND SEMI-FINAL

May 14th, 2020

Austria	Vincent Bueno	*Alive*
Moldova	Natalia Gordienko	*Prison*
Poland	Alicja	*Empires*
San Marino	Senhit	*Freaky!*
Serbia	Hurricane	*Hasta La Vista*
Iceland	Daði og Gagnamagnið	*Think About Things*
Czech Republic	Benny Cristo	*Kemama*
Greece	Stefania	*SUPERG!RL*
Estonia	Uku Suviste	*What Love Is*
Denmark	Ben & Tan	*YES*
Bulgaria	VICTORIA	*Tears Getting Sober*
Switzerland	Gjon's Tears	*Répondez-moi*
Finland	Aksel	*Looking Back*
Armenia	Athena Manoukian	*Chains On You*
Latvia	Samanta Tīna	*Still Breathing*
Georgia	Tornike Kipiani	*Take Me As I Am*
Portugal	Elisa	*Medo De Sentir*
Albania	Arilena Ara	*Fall From The Sky*

ONLY VOTING

Spain **France** **United Kingdom**

SECOND SEMI-FINAL SCOREBOARD

Country	Performer(s)	Song

FINAL

May 16th, 2020

Germany	Ben Dolic	*Violent Thing*
Spain	Blas Cantó	*Universo*
France	Tom Leeb	*Mon Alliée (The Best In Me)*
Italy	Diodato	*Fai Rumore*
The Netherlands	Jeangu Macrooy	*Grow*
United Kingdom	James Newman	*My Last Breath*

FINAL RUNNING ORDER

	Country	Performer(s)	Song
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23	**The Netherlands**	Jeangu Macrooy	Grow
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FINAL

	NOTES	SCORE
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TELEVOTE																										
United Kingdom																										
Ukraine																										
The Netherlands																										
Switzerland																										
Sweden																										
Spain																										
Slovenia																										
Serbia																										
San Marino																										
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Portugal																										
Poland																										
Norway																										
North Macedonia																										
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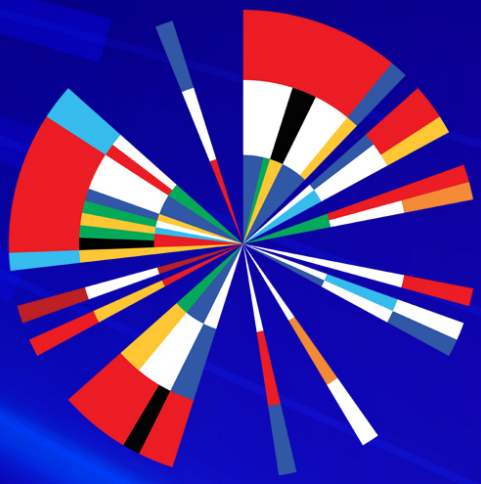
Australia																										
Armenia																										
Albania																										

NOTES



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